







Iraqi children wait at a Baghdad hospital for medicine for their children, stricken with leukemia. Medicine is a scarce commodity in Iraq because of the crippling embargo imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 (AFP photo)

## U.S. calls Ekeus report on Iraq weapons programme 'chilling'

UNITED NATIONS (UN) — The head of the U.N. Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons told the U.N. Security Council on Friday that Iraq's latest admission that it had a large, well-advanced germ warfare programme was "chilling".

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons (UNSCOM), brief the council hours after his return from Baghdad and Amman where he met with top Iraqi officials and with Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, the former head of Iraq's weapons programme who recently defected to Jordan.

Mr. Ekeus left with more than 150 crates and eight large shipping containers of documents from Iraq which he said contained information on the amount of germ warfare agents that Iraq possessed and the extent of its biological and chemical weapons programmes that Baghdad had previously denied from U.N. inspectors. They were turned over to the UNSCOM chairman at a farm Iraqi officials said belonged to Gen. Hussein Kamel.

"I know a wealth of valuable information was delivered to us. Our obligation is to verify that this information is correct, and more important to verify that no items are left for Iraq to threaten its neighbours," Mr. Ekeus said.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright called Mr. Ekeus' report "chilling" in terms of the potential for use of weapons programmes and how close we all came to a major disaster."

Ms. Albright singled out three disclosures: Iraq produced additional biological agents beyond the botulinum and anthrax they had admitted to; it had a comprehensive programme to produce and deploy some 200 fully capable biological weapons for delivery by air and long-range missiles; and a crash programme to deploy a nuclear device by April 1991.

The ambassador said that Iraq apparently decided not to use the biological weapons after its invasion of Kuwait because the United States "made clear the consequences of using such weapons."

"The new information

shows that Iraq had a more dangerous weapons programme before and after the Gulf war than even UNSCOM had known," she said. "Iraq continued its work in these areas even after it accepted Resolution 687, even when it claimed sanctions were reducing Iraq to poverty. It did its best to preserve major elements of its programme in order to revive it as soon as possible."

UNSCOM had said in early August that it was not satisfied with the information it had received from Baghdad on the biological weapons programme and that it suspected Iraq had actually produced more of the agents than it had admitted and may have hidden other production lines and sites.

After the meeting, diplomats said they were most disturbed by the size and scale of production of the biological weapons, the way in which Iraq had been preparing different kinds of weapon delivery systems, and the advanced state of production and deployment.

At a press conference after meeting the council, Mr. Ekeus said that "we have a new situation (in which) we see a full-scale programme that matured in very aggressive form after the invasion of Kuwait and reached maturity in filling munitions in December 1990."

"Now Iraq has admitted 10 times more anthrax than it presented earlier. Iraq admitted it had indeed put both anthrax and botulinum on weapons. Four hundred bombs were filled with anthrax and 100 bombs with botulinum toxin," Mr. Ekeus said. "Furthermore Iraq admitted production of a new agent... and filled it in 16 bombs."

The UNSCOM chairman went on to say that Iraq also admitted to filling its Al Hussein warheads — Iraq's modification of the Soviet Scuds — with the anthrax (10 missiles) and botulinum (15 missiles). Between December 1 and 23, 1990, immediately before the outbreak of the Gulf war in late January 1991, the weapons were brought to two air bases and other sites around Iraq.

Iraq also admitted that it was doing research on toxins to destroy wheat crops and animals and on the "yellow rain" toxins. It was experimenting with remote controlled spray planes but

had not advanced far enough to use either the toxins or weapons, he reported.

"Iraq says all weapons were destroyed. It remains for the commission to clarify that really all agents were destroyed," Mr. Ekeus said. The main concern is the deadly anthrax, which is relatively stable and can be kept many years without too much difficulty.

An important "but not earthshaking" bit of new information was that Iraq wanted to produce its own Al Hussein missile rather than modify the Soviet import Scuds, Mr. Ekeus said.

"We accounted for all Russian missiles. Now we have information Iraq had its own. That means we have to have vigorous investigation to clarify no missiles are left," he said.

According to the information now provided by Baghdad, "it is clear Iraq was working on a crash programme started immediately after the invasion of Kuwait and was aiming at producing one nuclear device using highly enriched uranium from (an International Atomic Energy Agency) safe-guarded site," Mr. Ekeus said.

"It was a crash programme, a desperate effort to produce a bomb by April 1991," he said.

Iraq also rescinded its demand that the Security Council lift the oil embargo by Aug. 31 or it would no longer cooperate with the U.N. That ultimatum was lifted, Mr. Ekeus said, the day after Gen. Hussein Kamel defected.

Ms. Albright told journalists after the private council meeting with Mr. Ekeus that "the latest disclosures from Baghdad say much more about the credibility of the Iraqi government and the threat it still poses to the region than they do about the possibility of lifting sanctions any time soon."

"Even when the Iraqi government provides information it feels compelled to wrap it in a package of falsehood. Iraq has again insulted the intelligence of the council with the story even a child could not believe: That in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Hussein Kamel single-handedly ran a weapons programme involving cabinet ministers and thousands of specialists and managed to conceal the details of that programme from Saddam Hussein him-

self." "Iraq's four-year-old approach of false cooperation with UNSCOM is not the work of a single individual but the coordinated policy of the Iraqi government," the ambassador said. "The new disclosures by Iraqi officials show that these same officials were consciously lying to UNSCOM just three weeks ago when they said that they had provided full information on their biological weapons programme."

"For anyone to believe Iraq when it now says it has come clean would be naive in the extreme," Ms. Albright said. She said that verifying the new information "will be long and difficult" but necessary because of Iraq's "utter lack of credibility."

British ambassador John Weston concurred with Ms. Albright's assessment.

The Ekeus briefing, he said, demonstrated "the colossal extent of political irresponsibility manifested by the Saddam Hussein regime in allowing programmes of this kind to come to this advanced and dangerous state. The newly revealed information shows just how extensive the lying and evasion has been in the past. We all need to be quite careful and fully convinced that the truth has been unearthed."

Ms. Albright stressed that Iraq "must not only comply with the weapons requirements of the ceasefire agreement, but the other demands before sanctions are lifted: Give an accounting of Kuwaiti prisoners of war, return Kuwaiti property, stop supporting terrorism, stop repressing the Kurds in the north and the Shiite in the south."

"It's pretty tough for me to imagine" the sanctions being lifted in the next year, she said. "I think putting a timeframe on anything is not useful. The important point here is that when the Security Council holds firm there are results."

In July 1995 after four years of denying that such a programme existed, Iraq admitted for the first time that it had an offensive biological weapons programme with research beginning in late 1985. It also told the U.N. that in an 18-month period it had produced 500,000 liters of botulinum and 50,000 liters of anthrax. The new admissions build on those details.

## Ekeus collected Iraqi data from farm

UNITED NATIONS (R) — In an unusual bit of drama, the U.N. chief weapons inspector described on Friday how he was taken to an abandoned farm to receive tonnes of documents on weapons allegedly held by a defector.

U.N. Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus, in charge of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, told a news conference how he received thousands of documents on Iraq's efforts to produce nuclear arms, germ weapons and ballistic missiles.

"They rang me as I was packing and said, 'you don't have to go to the aircraft but a farm (in Iraq) owned by

Hussein Kamel Hassan," Dr. Ekeus said. He was referring to the general who directed the weapons programme and defected to Jordan, arriving in Amman on Aug. 8.

Dr. Ekeus said he delayed his flight from Baghdad last Sunday and went to the farm. "There I found eight large shipping containers plus a large amount of metal boxes," he said.

The boxes numbered about 150 and contained documents in English and Arabic on paper, videotapes, computer disks and microfiche that are now sealed in a U.N.-protected centre in Baghdad.

Dr. Ekeus said he was told that the defector's assistants

had brought the documents to the farm a day before Hussein Kamel went to Jordan. But he said, "there was no dust, they were in shining condition."

Security Council diplomats said other Iraqis indicated to Dr. Ekeus that the cache of documents was brought to the farm three days after the defection.

Dr. Ekeus then went to Jordan where he met Gen. Hussein Kamel. "His information overlapped with information provided by Iraq," he said. "Fundamentally it was in the same direction."

Iraq's new revelations

apparently were prompted by fears of secrets that could be disclosed by the defector.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright lashed into Iraq, saying that even when the Baghdad government provided information, "it feels compelled to wrap it in a package of falsehood."

"Iraq has again insulted the intelligence of the council with a story even a child could not believe: That in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Hussein Kamel single-handedly ran a weapons programme involving cabinet ministers and thousands of specialists, and managed to conceal details of its from Saddam Hussein himself," she said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 200 Egyptian deputies lose gun permits

CAIRO (AFP) — Some 200 Egyptian deputies were among 18,000 people who have had gun permits withdrawn in the past two years, Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali said Saturday. "In the past two years... out of the 214,000 gun permits granted to citizens, some 18,327 have been withdrawn," mostly because people only wanted an arm for "prestige," General Ali told the daily Al-Ahram. Over the same period "200 permits for semi-automatic arms" given to Egyptian deputies were cancelled because citizens are banned from carrying such types of weapons. Gen. Ali said that 27,574 illegal weapons had been seized in sweeps including 2,509 automatic rifles and 283 artillery rifles.

### Militants kill police cook in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Suspected militants shot dead a policeman's club cook on his way home in south Egypt, an interior ministry statement said on Saturday. The attack on Friday night killed Mohammed Fahmy Ahmad in a village near the town of Mallawi in Minya province, 260 kilometres south of Cairo. Police sources said they suspected the attackers were members of Egypt's largest militant organisation, Al Gama'a Al Islamiya. The Gama'a leads a campaign to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's government and establish a strict Islamic state. More than 820 people, most of them police and militants, have been killed in the three-year-old campaign.

### U.S. citizens told to avoid public transport in Israel

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States warned its citizens Friday to avoid the use of public transportation, especially buses and bus stops in Israel and Gaza following Monday's bus bombing in Jerusalem. The State Department said the restriction did not apply to tour buses. The bus bombing in Jerusalem on Monday left five people dead and wounded 100, the sixth incidence of suicide bombing since October 1994.

### Prostitutes unionise in Turkey

IZMIR (AP) — A brothel owner said Friday that for the first time prostitutes are forming a union to improve their compensation. Ayse Firrali said that so far 36 prostitutes had joined the union, entitling them to collective bargaining. She hopes to encourage many more prostitutes around the country to unionise, but faces strong opposition from other brothel owners who prefer to keep their employees unregistered. Ms. Firrali said she had received threats from other brothel owners. Turkey permits prostitution. There are more than 3,000 prostitutes legally working in Turkey.

### Wonder visits a top Arafat aide in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Singer Stevie Wonder visited a close advisor of Yasser Arafat in Jerusalem Friday, bringing a message of hope that "Palestinians and Israelis can be as one." Dr. Ahmad Tibi, a Palestinian gynecologist who often explains Palestinian politics to the Israeli public because of his fluent Hebrew, received Mr. Wonder in his home just north of Jerusalem. "I just wanted to say that we all love Stevie and we are very pleased that he is here in East Jerusalem," Dr. Tibi said, holding hands with the music idol as the two sat on the couch. "He is loved by all, Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs. He is the symbol of struggle for equality, peace and freedom and we are very proud that you are here," he added. "We like your songs and we like you."

### Somaliand frees Norwegian; 5 still held

OSLO (R) — The leader of Somaliand said on Friday a Norwegian diplomat detained in the breakaway state had been released but five other people seized when he landed in the capital Hargeisa were still being held. Mohammed Ibrahim Egal, president of the self-proclaimed African republic, told the Norwegian television station TV2 by telephone that Oeyvind Nordgren, a diplomat at the Norwegian embassy in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, had been freed. "Nordgren has been released," Mr. Egal said. "He himself decided to stay (in Hargeisa) with friends, but he will be leaving tomorrow." Asked about the other detainees, he only said: "That is a different story altogether."

## U.S. ban on Lebanon is political — congressman

BEIRUT (AFP) — A U.S. congressman branded as "political" a U.S. travel ban on Lebanon, saying it prevented American firms from grabbing a share of Lebanon's post-war reconstruction plans before leaving Saturday for Syria.

Martin Hoke, who is on a fact-finding mission which has taken him to Israel and Jordan, was speaking after talks late Friday with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bourez.

The U.S. restrictions were first adopted after an American TWA jetliner was hijacked to Beirut in 1985 by Shiite Muslim fundamentalists and a U.S. navy diver murdered.

They have been renewed every year and Washington warned that Lebanon was "still a dangerous place" when it extended the ban for another six months in February.

Mr. Hoke, who technically defied the ban by flying into Beirut airport from Amman on Friday aboard the Lebanese national carrier Middle East Airlines, said there was "nothing" to be afraid of except Lebanese drivers.

"The ban is clearly political. I don't think it is a security issue," Mr. Hoke said. He also met President Elias Hra-

wi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

"It was a security issue 10 years ago, five years ago but not today and now as a result of being caught in the politics of it we are losing. American companies are losing."

Mr. Hoke, a Republican from Ohio, also met managers of the private development and reconstruction firm Solidere which is promoting the multi-billion-dollar reconstruction of the war-shattered Beirut city centre.

"That work should be carried out by American companies. There are tremendous opportunities here... opportunities for economic growth for America and American companies," Mr. Hoke said.

Lebanon's post-war reconstruction projects have been estimated at 15 billion dollars, with major contracts going to European countries. "Westinghouse should be building power plants. That's who should be doing it not some company from Italy," Mr. Hoke added.

Lebanon, where the 15-year civil war ended in 1990, has repeatedly dismissed the ban as unjustified.

In June, the United States allowed the sale of airplane tickets to Lebanon in the United States for Lebanese nationals only.

## Kuwait will not receive Iraqi defector, paper says

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will not receive top Iraqi defector Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan "because his hands were stained with Kuwait's blood," a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Gen. Hassan, who defected to Jordan this month, said in interviews published on Friday that he would like to visit Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to explain the situation and "seek their help" in toppling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Kuwait fully rejects to receive that person because his hands were stained with the blood of Kuwaitis," Al Watan newspaper quoted a cabinet source as saying.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and annexed it as its 19th province until a U.S.-led coalition ousted Iraqi troops in 1991.

About 300 Kuwaitis were killed during the seven-month occupation.

"Documents confirm that he was in charge of the

looting of Kuwaiti state and private property during the vicious Iraqi occupation," the Kuwait cabinet source was quoted as saying.

Kuwait this year published Iraqi documents showing that Gen. Hassan had ordered the looting of Kuwaiti oil industry equipment during the occupation.

Gen. Hassan, who was in charge of military industries and acting minister of oil in 1990, has said he was only following orders when he took part in the invasion and that he now recognises Kuwait as an independent country.

Iraqi state television on Thursday broadcast a tape of a voice which the announcer said was that of Gen. Hassan, urging the government to invade Kuwait and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia.

Gen. Hassan, in a radio interview quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency, said on Friday Iraqi had forged the tape.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

TELEVISION	
7:30-8:00	Children's Programme — Rahan
8:00-8:30	Magazine — La Marche du Siecle
8:30-9:00	News in French
9:00-9:30	News in English
9:30-10:00	Countdown
10:00-10:30	The Hidden Room
10:30-11:00	Keeping Up Appearances
11:00-11:30	Salt — The Sleeping Beauty
PRAYER TIMES	
6:00	Fair
6:30	(Sunrise) Dhuh
7:00	Dhuhr
7:30	Asr
8:00	Maghreb
8:30	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swetif, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.	632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.	628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	77261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	Armenian International Church Tel.
652526.	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
82433.	German-speaking Evangelical Con-
gregation Tel. 664195	The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.	The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman	Tel. 811295
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate to active and dusty, and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	Amman 20/33

EMERGENCIES	
Agaba 25 / 40	Deserts 19 / 36
Jordan Valley 25 / 39	
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 33, Agaba 38, Humidity	readings: Amman 22 per cent,
Agaba 27 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Awni Al Hawamdeh 777665	Dr. Ramzi Mizzzi 894188
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 759155	Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Pharmacy 661912	Pharmacy 788336
Al Asena pharmacy 677055	Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660	Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Nairookh pharmacy 847632	
BRID:	
Dr. Fayez Oadi 248743	Alqada pharmacy —
ZARQA:	
Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashch 983023	Khalifah pharmacy 985417
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/352	Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	
Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Bangkok (RJ)
06:45	Agaba (RJ)
08:00	Madrid (add) (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:55	Larnaca (RJ)
10:10	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:35	Beirut (RJ)
10:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
11:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:00	Paris (RJ)
12:15	London (RJ)
12:30	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
12:45	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Rome (RJ)
13:15	Bangkok (add) (RJ)
13:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45	Vienna, Munich (RJ)
01:15	Agaba (RJ)
01:30	Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
11:30	Sanaa (FY)
14:30	Moscow (SU)
16:15	Rome, Damascus (AZ)
16:30	Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
20:30	Cairo (MS)
21:10	Cairo (ME)
22:20	London, Beirut (BA)

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	
Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:25	Madrid (RJ)
06:30	Agaba (RJ)
08:00	Beirut (RJ)
11:30	Vienna, Munich (RJ)
11:45	Athens (RJ)
11:55	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45	Rome (add) (RJ)
13:00	Jeddah (RJ)
13:15	Cairo (RJ)
13:30	Dubai (RJ)
13:45	Damascus (RJ)
14:00	Beirut (RJ)
14:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:30	Damascus (RJ)
14:45	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
15:00	Bangkok (RJ)
15:15	Muskhia (RJ)
15:30	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:30	Rome (AZ)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
13:30	Sanaa (FY)
16:30	Moscow (SU)
19:20	Doha (GF)
21:25	Cairo (MS)
01:45	Beirut, London (BA)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700 / 500
Banana	600
Banana (Mukammur)	620
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	280 / 180
Cauliflower	520 / 220
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	300 / 200
Eggplant	160 / 100
Figs	400 / 300
Garlic	650 / 250
Lemon	380 / 200
Marrow (large)	300 / 200
Marrow (small)	360 / 250
Mushrooms	120 / 80
Onion (dry)	720 / 550
Orange	200 / 100
Peaches	750 / 600
Pepper (hot)	180 / 100
Pepper (sweet)	160 / 100
Potato	350 / 280
String Beans	480 / 300
Sweet Melon	250 / 150
Tomato	1200 / 800
Water Melon	130 / 70







## Rwanda refugees shun U.N. repatriation

GOMA, Zaire (R) — A voluntary U.N. repatriation plan, negotiated to end Zaire's forced expulsions of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees, came to a virtual halt Saturday when fewer than two dozen people agreed to go home.

Three empty U.N. trucks and a bus waited outside Goma's sprawling Mugunga camp all morning but no refugees showed up.

Earlier Saturday, only 20 refugees from Mugunga and a mere two from the nearby Lac Vert Camp boarded U.N. vehicles to return, U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR) officials said.

The refugees are tired. They need time, UNHCR repatriation officer Ivan Stumm said.

Over a million Hutus fled to Zaire from Rwanda last year, fearing the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) which seized power in July would take revenge for the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the previous two months.

Zaire began the forced expulsions after complaining for months the international community was not doing enough to help it shoulder the refugee burden.

The U.N. has to speed up the voluntary returns among the one million Hutu re-

fugees inside Zaire, having agreed to intervene in order to persuade Zaire to suspend its expulsions.

UNHCR officials fear Zaire may send in the troops again if it is not satisfied with the pace of returns. But this was seen as unlikely before talks due Monday in Kinshasa between UNHCR head Sadako Ogata and Zairean Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo.

Zaire's expulsions dumped 15,000 refugees along Rwanda's borders over four days before they were suspended Thursday.

But the voluntary U.N. programme has only been able to send home some 250 since it began Friday.

Despite the tiny trickle of returns, some UNHCR officials insisted there was a pro-return momentum. Patrick De Souza, the agency's head in the Bukavu area said he was "very optimistic" that 3,000 Hutus would agree to leave in a convoy Monday.

The Kigali government, rejecting calls to share power with Hutu exiles, says it will never negotiate with killers.

The refugees have few friends left. The international community does not want to pay for their stay in the region any longer. The start of the mass exodus was warmly greeted in the Zairean capital Kinshasa and in Goma town.

Extremists in the camps warn returnees they will be choked to death because there is no space in Rwanda's prisons. The jails are stuffed with 50,000 Hutu inmates, accused of genocide and other crimes. Amputations from gangrene are commonplace.

Reporters saw at least 30 men, among the 200 refugees who agreed to leave Friday, questioned and detained at Nkamera Camp, 20 kilometres inside Rwanda, where the returnees are being screened by Rwandan authorities.

Diplomats say Zaire's warning to the refugees has yet to be followed through with real action against the troublemakers — countless murderers who live amongst the refugees.

Zaire so far has left untouched the military camps of the 40,000 refugees in the former Rwandan government army, the FAR.

A top Zairean general, Baramoto Kpama, revealed sympathy for the extremists during a visit to Goma town this week.

"Have you ever seen anything bad in their camps? We're still brothers. We're not enemies," he told reporters when asked if Zairean troops would start expelling the FAR.

Rwandan Hutu militiamen

say they prefer to risk death in Zaire rather than return to imprisonment or execution in Rwanda.

Meanwhile, the London-based human rights group Africa Rights said Saturday thousands of Rwandan women played an active role in last year's genocide in their country, killing, looting and stripping the dead of valuables.

"Women and girls in their teens joined the crowds that surrounded churches, hospitals and other places of refuge, wielding machetes, nail-studded clubs and spears," African Rights said in a report based on eyewitness testimony.

"They excelled as 'cheerleaders' of the genocide, singing and ululating the killers into action," it said. "They entered churches, schools, football stadiums and hospitals to finish off the wounded, hacking women, children and even men to death."

The human rights group said many of these women are now in refugee camps in Zaire and are refusing to return home "precisely because they are mass murderers who will be, and must be, judged for their crimes."

African Rights said women from all walks of life took part in the killings — from government ministers, civil servants, local government

administrators, doctors and journalists to students, housewives, domestic servants, traders and nuns.

Women working for local non-governmental organisations and international agencies in Rwanda were also involved, it said.

"The extent to which women took an active role in the killings is unprecedented anywhere in the world."

"The architects of the genocide sought to involve as much of the population as possible — men, women and even children as young as eight," the report said. "They set out to create a nation of extremists bound together by the blood of genocide."

African Rights said many of the women took their children with them on their "killing sprees" while other women enlisted their children to help them loot the dead.

Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, minister for women and the family at the time of the massacres, was among several prominent Rwandan women named by African Rights as an "organiser" of the killings.

"She regularly visited places where refugees had been congregated and personally supervised the selection of hundreds of Tutsi men for the slaughterhouse," the report said.



U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton arrives at Yellowstone National Park with her husband U.S. President Bill Clinton and their daughter Chelsea (AFP photo)

## Storm catches Clintons in Yellowstone back country

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (R) — As black clouds boiled across a nearby ridge and thunder rumbled overhead, President Bill Clinton, on holiday with his family, led a hiking party up a steep trail to see the gray wolves reintroduced here last January.

The storm hit just as Mr. Clinton, his wife Hillary, daughter Chelsea and her friend Rebecca reached a pen where an adult she-wolf and five cubs were getting accustomed to their new habitat, with the help of some buffalo meat.

Pea-sized hailstones fell, then a pelting cold rain — and lightning crackling close by.

Mr. Clinton and his party initially took shelter under a tree until a park ranger gently suggested that this was not a good idea.

"I went to visit the wolves and I got killed by hail. God, are they beautiful," Mr. Clinton said after the storm let up enough to let him and his entourage return to a campsite that served as the landing zone for their helicopter.

Mr. Clinton's all-day Friday visit to Yellowstone, the oldest U.S. national park, was not for the faint-hearted or physically unfit.

Before his rain-soaked trek, he made a helicopter tour of the proposed site of a Canadian-owned gold mine on the northeastern edge of the 2.2 million acre (89,000 hectare) park.

Environmentalists fear waste from the mine on Henderson Mountain will pollute rivers and streams in a section of Yellowstone that is home to grizzly bears,

moose, big-horn sheep and other species.

They say the mine will also disrupt visitor use of that part of the park and harm the economy of small rural towns nearby.

Mr. Clinton, the ninth president to visit Yellowstone, apparently agreed.

"I saw thousands of people today, ordinary Americans, taking their children through this park, people who could never — a lot of them I imagine — never afford to go to any kind of private resort or private reserve or anything else," he said, referring to the crowds he saw at the famed "Old Faithful" geyser.

"This (park) is a big part of their lives, and it seems to me that one of my most fundamental responsibilities is to make sure it's still around for their children."

Mr. Clinton announced a two-year moratorium on mining claims on 4,500 acres of federally-owned land on the perimeter of the park. While his action does not affect the New World Mine itself, it would limit its growth, and that was sweet music for environmentalists.

"It's another nail in the coffin of this mine, and should send a message to the mining syndicate to go back home to Canada," said Tom Cassidy of the American Rivers environmental group.

On Saturday, the president and Mrs. Clinton planned to mark the 75th anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Wyoming was the first state in the union to actually let women cast ballots.

## Wu vows to return to China

MILPITAS, Calif. (R) — Human rights activist Harry Wu, expelled by the Chinese after two months of detention and a spying conviction, said that he intends to return to China someday.

"This is the place I was born. This is the place I want to die. Of course I will go back," Mr. Wu said in an interview with Reuters. "I have my blood, my tears in this Chinese soil."

"The government won't welcome me, (but) that doesn't mean the government will last forever," said Mr. Wu, who previously spent 19 years in Chinese labour camps.

Mr. Wu was adamant that he would go on with his struggle to end alleged human rights abuses in China's labour camps.

"The fight is continuing. (There is) no way for me to give up or withdraw a single inch," he said.

Mr. Wu said he is committed to returning to China one day. He said Chinese authorities would jail him again if he did return.

Earlier, at a news conference in the living room of his California home, Mr. Wu described the harsh conditions of his imprisonment, how he had been denied medicine for a back injury and how he avoided thinking of his wife or his home because it would have driven him mad.

Mr. Wu looked weak and emotionally drained after his imprisonment, which became a high-profile irritant to Sino-U.S. relations.

Mr. Wu, 58, a naturalised U.S. citizen who angered China by documenting charges of human rights abuses in Chinese labour camps, was expelled hours after a court convicted him of spying and sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment. He arrived in San Francisco Thursday night from Shanghai.

Mr. Wu said he spent most of his two months in detention isolated in a 10 foot by 12 foot (3 metre by 3.6 metre) room.

Mr. Wu said that when he was reunited with his wife, Ching Lee, he asked her to marry him. "I confessed to my wife: 'I didn't think about you a lot because thinking a lot I would go mad.'"

He said he told himself: "Don't think about it. I don't have a family. I don't have good things outside. I have to prepare for my death."

A charge of espionage can carry the death penalty in China.

Mr. Wu also said he planned to go on hunger strike if Chinese authorities carried out any of the prison sentence against him. "That's the only choice: Freedom or death," he said.

His expulsion opened the way for first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to attend a U.N. conference on women in China early next month.

Mr. Wu, who previously spent 19 years in Chinese labour camps, said he believed that if he had not been an American, he would have "disappeared" in China.

## Colombia rebels kidnap British official

LONDON (R) — Britain said Saturday it is doing all it can to secure the release of a British diplomat in Colombia who is reported to have been kidnapped by left-wing guerrillas.

The Foreign Office identified the diplomat as Timothy Cowley, an assistant to the defence attache at the British embassy in the Colombian capital Bogota.

"We are doing all we can to secure his return," said a spokesman.

"This is unfortunately a very common occurrence in Colombia. He was unfortunately kidnapped by left-wing guerrillas."

The spokesman was unable to give any details about Mr. Cowley's captors and could not say whether any demands had been made.

"Our position with ransom is well-known — we don't pay them," said the spokesman.

BBC World Service radio said Mr. Cowley was abducted by left-wing guerrillas at a roadblock in southwest Colombia two weeks ago.

A BBC correspondent in Bogota said the abduction had been kept quiet while negotiations were attempted, but the information was released by a senior Colombian army officer during a television interview on Friday night.

Mr. Tarnoff held 3½ hours of talks with Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at the Beijing State Guesthouse at the start of a two-day visit in the capital aimed at warming chilly Sino-U.S. relations.

Mr. Tarnoff flew into the central city of Shanghai late Thursday just as Chinese police expelled U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu after sentencing him to 15 years on charges of spying and stealing state secrets.

Mr. Wu's detention in June had become a major irritant to already troubled Sino-U.S. ties and diplomats said his release had been carefully timed to remove an impediment and put the ball in Washington's court to improve relations before Mr. Tarnoff arrived.

"The discussions principally focused on bilateral issues," a U.S. embassy spokesman said of Saturday's meeting. "The talks were held in a frank, open and constructive manner."

Mr. Tarnoff was due to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Sunday and to attend a dinner to be held by the Foreign Affairs Office of the State Council, China's cabinet.

China says relations with the United States have plunged to their lowest point since they were established 16 years ago and the Xinhua News Agency attacked U.S. media reports that it said vilified China as a "new evil empire."

China was enraged when U.S. President Bill Clinton allowed a private visit by President Lee Teng-Hui of rival Taiwan last June in a move Beijing regarded as the start of tacit U.S. recognition of the island as an independent entity.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949. Beijing's Communist rulers and Taiwan's nationalist government both say they want reunification but on very different terms.

Beijing has demanded a formal guarantee from Washington it will not allow any more such visits, a demand to which U.S. officials say privately, Washington would not be willing to bow.

Mr. Tarnoff was expected to reiterate U.S. recognition of China but was unlikely to give the guarantee Beijing wants.

The expulsion of Mr. Wu, who had campaigned against China's secretive, sprawling prison system for years, opened a deadlock that enabled U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to announce she would go ahead with a visit to Beijing for next month's United Nations Women Conference.

## New York fire brought under control

RIVERHEAD, New York (R) — Brush fires in Long Island's fashionable Hamptons were brought under control by firefighters who battled the flames on the ground as helicopters and crop-dusters dropped water from the air.

"The fire is under control," said Tim Ryan, spokesman for Suffolk County executive Robert Gaffney.

"This does not mean that the problem is over. We have had 19 days without rain, and everything is as dry as a tinderbox," said Mr. Ryan.

Six fixed-wing planes dropping up to 400 gallons (1,500 litres) of water per trip, and two Chinook helicopters which can drop 1,000 gallons (3,800 litres), have been fighting the blaze and more reinforcements were expected.

The blaze, which began Thursday, destroyed eight houses, a lumberyard and a railroad station, injured 40 firefighters and drove hundreds of people from their homes.

New York Governor George Pataki, who said the fire in the region of Eastport and Westhampton was the state's worst in 60 years, declared a state of emergency, prompting a quick pledge of federal assistance from President Bill Clinton.

They had been sniffing around, gathering information about my movements," he said.

"As far as we know, the (Iranian) embassies in France and Germany are the conduit for instructions from Tehran about my possible assassination," he added.

The 48-year-old author, who was born in Bombay and became a British citizen in 1964, told the Times that he was writing the *Moor's Last Sigh*, his first novel since the *Satanic Verses*, was "a very important step for me."

"I had spent two and a half years talking to politicians, which is not my favourite occupation," he said. "Then I realised it was foolish to let this disagreeable business get in the way of what I love doing best."

Two members of the Iranian embassy and a student were eventually deported from Britain in connection with his case, he told the paper.

"There was evidence that he had been sniffing around, gathering information about my movements," he said.

Speaking of his life since the *Satanic Verses* was announced, he said he had changed his residence some 30 times since 1989 in order to hide from the "people (who) have been sent in Britain to assassinate me."

He added that it "has always and only been the Iranian government" behind planned attempts on his life.

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## Rushdie regrets converting to Islam

LONDON (AFP) — British author Salman Rushdie, who is under an Iranian death sentence, told Saturday's Times newspaper that his conversion to Islam was "the biggest mistake of my life."

"At the time, I was trying to protect the *Satanic Verses* as the work of someone who really knew Islam," he told the paper. "But it was wrong, because I don't believe in God, so I should not have suggested that I did."

Mr. Rushdie converted in 1990 to Islam, the faith he had abandoned as a teenager, a year after the religious decree, or fatwa, was issued by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini against him for the *Satanic Verses*, regarded as blasphemous by many Muslims.

He was speaking to the Times ahead of the September launch of his latest novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, a tale of love and money, dreams and lost opportunities within an Indian dynasty.

Speaking of his life since the fatwa was announced, he said he had changed his residence some 30 times since 1989 in order to hide from the "people (who) have been sent in Britain to assassinate me."

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## China, U.S. hold 'frank, open' talks

BEIJING (R) — U.S. Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff began fence-mending talks Saturday with Chinese Foreign Ministry officials in Beijing and diplomats described the first meeting as frank and constructive.

Mr. Tarnoff held 3½ hours of talks with Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at the Beijing State Guesthouse at the start of a two-day visit in the capital aimed at warming chilly Sino-U.S. relations.

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## Garbo memorabilia sold at auction

ROCKPORT, Maine (AP) — Greta Garbo's 1925 date book went for \$4,400 Friday, as the largest privately owned collection of Garbo memorabilia to be sold went up for auction. Other notable sale items included the exclusive film star's 1925 signed contract with Metro Goldwyn Mayer, which sold for \$3,850, and her Swedish passport from the same year, which brought \$3,700. The items were sold by James D. Julia at his annual end-of-summer auction at the Samonset Resort. The Garbo collection was more than 100 items, including photographs from the films *Queen Christina*, *Anna Karenina* and *The Painted Veil*. The total brought by the Garbo collection was not immediately available. Garbo died in 1990 at age 84. One of the bidders Friday was Dr. Donald Reischel of New Jersey, whose wife is Garbo's niece and "sister" Gray Reischel. He brought several photographs. Reischel said he believed some of the auction items may have been stolen in a break-in at Garbo's home in California many years ago. Julia denied that, and said all the items had been bought by the previous owner from a reputable firm. About 150 people attended the auction, which Julia advertised world-wide, including in the Swedish press, in the show business newspaper *Variety* and in the *New York Times*.

## Philippines sex tours draw 25,000

MANILA (R) — Some 25,000 Australian nationals visit the Philippines every year on sex tours, a Filipino legislator said Friday. Senator Ernesto Herrera said in a statement the figure represents more than a third of the 70,000 Australians who visit the Philippines, and he added that most of them were engaged in child sex while in the country. "We also have documented reports of Britons, Germans and Belgians engaged in the trade and many of them are drawn by the promotional campaigns of both local and foreign sex tour operators," he said. Japanese nationals are also arriving in increasing numbers to the central city of Cebu and Batangas province south of Manila on highly organised sex tours. "For the Japanese, it's both golf and sex attracting them," Sen. Herrera said. The Philippines recently filed a case against a British national for lewd behaviour on accusations he fondled two boys in Angeles City north of the capital. Manila also launched a crackdown against prostitution in the city by picking up nearly 700 women and street children.

## Pornography network smashed in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Police seized 4,556 video cassettes of obscene movies, uncovering what is believed to be the biggest pornography network in Malaysia, news reports said. Three people were arrested during a raid Saturday on a two-story house in the southern city of Muar, where tapes smuggled from neighbouring countries were copied en masse and distributed nationwide, the reports said. In a separate incident, police raided a 50-room building in Kuala Lumpur Sunday and uncovered the capital's biggest prostitution den, Zakaria Mohammad of the Criminal Investigation Department said. Five clients and two caretakers were arrested but dozens of prostitutes, mostly Thais, escaped, he told reporters. The incidents highlighted the profusion of smut in Malaysia despite a ban on pornography and prostitution in keeping with its conservative, Muslim-dominated society. Pornographic tapes are freely available in retail outlets for as little as 10 ringgits (\$4) but are sold only to known customers or others they recommend. In Muar, 200 kilometres (120 miles) south of here, police seized tapes worth more than 250,000 ringgits (\$100,000) in the black market, the *Star* newspaper said. About 1,000 pictures of naked women to be pasted on video jackets also were seized, the *New Straits Times* reported. It quoted a senior police official, Mohammed Bashir Niamat Ali, as saying that the tapes were produced abroad, probably in Hong Kong.



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## Yeltsin's heavyweight foes enter election race

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin's two most consistent political foes entered Russia's parliamentary election race Saturday, vowing eventually to oust him from power.

The Communist Party and the Derzhava ("great state") Movement headed by former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, a leader of an anti-Yeltsin revolt in 1993, held their congresses to define their platforms and leading candidates.

"The party aims seriously at winning the election and is ready to take immediate responsibility for the state of affairs in the country," Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov told delegates from nearly every Russian region.

According to all opinion polls, the Communists are front-runners for the Dec. 17 poll to the State Duma lower house of parliament.

Mr. Zyuganov said his party would try to amend the constitution to make the government subject to parliament. He did not mention the post of president but his party has said it is opposed to a presidential system in Russia.

"Deceived people gave power to this regime and they should take it away by constitutional means," he declared.

"Russia hangs over an abyss and pleads for help," Mr. Zyuganov said. "The country may be saved only by changing the current political system."

A well-written election

platform contained simple slogans likely to win sympathy among millions of disenchanted Russians, weary of the hardships of market reforms, surging crime and falling living standards.

Mr. Zyuganov and other delegates said they would not form any blocs with other parties on the national level but called on other left-wing groupings to work together in individual constituencies.

Half of the 450 Duma deputies will be elected in individual constituencies while the rest will be elected from party lists.

Mr. Yeltsin is showing a keen interest in the election, which is widely expected to be a litmus test for a presidential poll due to be held next June.

Mr. Rutskoi told his supporters his top priority was "to restore great Russia within the boundaries of the former Soviet Union."

The former vice-president led a rebellion in Moscow in 1993 staged by supporters of the Soviet-era parliament which had refused to obey Mr. Yeltsin's order to step down. He spent several months in prison and was then released under an amnesty.

Mr. Rutskoi's number two on the election list is Viktor Kobolev, a little known politician who is believed to have masterminded a successful election campaign of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy but broke with him earlier this year.

On the democratic front, Russia's Choice of the former market reform supremo Yegor Gaidar was expected to form an election alliance later Saturday with the Party of Social Democracy led by Alexander Yakovlev.

Mr. Yakovlev, dubbed Mr. Gaidar in the West for his role in Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika policies, is trying a political comeback.

Scores of parties take part in the pre-election battle but all of them are closely watching the latest potentially powerful newcomer — the "Our Home Is Russia" centre-right bloc formed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with Mr. Yeltsin's blessing.

Mr. Chernomyrdin got a boost Saturday when powerful Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov announced his support to the movement.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said Saturday his movement would fight against extremists who sought to foment an anti-democratic uprising during the election campaign.

Opening his coalition's Moscow city branch, Mr. Chernomyrdin said "Our Home Is Russia" was against those who wished to turn the Dec. 17 parliamentary elections "into the prologue of another 1917" revolution, Interfax News Agency reported.

The coalition would fight against those who tried to "rip up the constitutional pillars of the state, abandon the presidency and redistribute property," he said, adding that the bloc would launch its election campaign in the next few days.

"We must offer the people of Russia, wherever they live, concrete solutions to their problems, since strong economies in the regions mean a strong economy in Russia," he said.

"We want to win the elections, but not at the cost of the reasonable things we have attained, not at the cost of reform."

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the gubernatorial elections in the Sverdlovsk region of the Urals last Sunday proved that "Our Home Is Russia" will be judged by how it works rather than by what it promises.

The Russian government suffered a serious setback last weekend when Eduard Rossel defeated the outgoing governor of the industrial Sverdlovsk region, Alexei Strakhov, handpicked by President Boris Yeltsin two years ago.

Mr. Strakhov was backed by Our Home Is Russia.

Mr. Rossel, who won nearly 60 percent of the vote, was sacked by Mr. Yeltsin as Sverdlovsk governor in 1993 after he tried to create an autonomous republic of the Urals.

Mr. Yeltsin was formerly first secretary of the Communist Party in Sverdlovsk. The region's capital, renamed Yekaterinburg, lies 1,400 kilometres (840 miles) east of Moscow.

## France to hold nuclear tests in S. Pacific despite protesters

PAPEETE, Tahiti (R) — France will conduct a nuclear test even if anti-nuclear protesters are inside the exclusion zone around Mururoa Atoll or inside the atoll's lagoon itself, the French naval commander of the South Pacific said Friday.

"Our ships are in the Lagoon when we have tests and they are totally safe," Vice-Admiral Philippe Euvette told Reuters in an interview in the Tahitian capital, Papeete.

Asked whether the explosion would go ahead if protesters were inside the 12 mile (20 kilometre) exclusion zone or lagoon, Adm. Euvette said: "We have no problem with that."

"If there were many ships coming at the same time and we cannot catch all of them, we can perfectly achieve our tests," Adm. Euvette said.

"I am not sure a lot of them have decided to enter the zone," he said, adding he believed the long voyage and rough seas would prevent some protesters from reaching Mururoa and leave others too tired to attempt such action.

Greenpeace's flagship Rainbow Warrior is en route to Mururoa to head a protest flotilla of between 20 and 30 boats and has said it will breach the Mururoa exclusion zone.

In July, the Rainbow Warrior attempted to enter the

Mururoa Lagoon and was rammed by a French tug and stormed by commandos.

Adm. Euvette said he had 15 ships, including two frigates and three patrol boats, as well as commandos armed with tear gas, to protect the territorial water around France's main test site.

"I will decide on the day how many ships will be used to match the ships present," he said.

However, Adm. Euvette conceded he might have trouble controlling inflatable zodiac boats carrying protesters.

Rainbow Warrior launched several such boats in July and was able to get two protesters inside the lagoon and chained to a drilling rig.

"The problem with the zodiacs is if they put them at sea during night time and outside the 12 miles we cannot keep control, we cannot keep them in sight, and it means there is no way we can catch them when they try to enter," he said.

"If we can catch them before it is better, if we don't see them or the seas are too rough we can wait until they are inside, it doesn't make a difference," he said.

Adm. Euvette said a cable had been placed across the entrance to the Mururoa lagoon after the last attempt to enter by Rainbow Warrior. The pass is barred, he said.

On Friday, Greenpeace

## Doubts arise over Anglo-Irish summit

LONDON (R) — The British government declined comment Saturday on reports that an Anglo-Irish summit next month may be postponed because of lack of progress towards breaking a deadlock on key issues.

A spokesman for Prime Minister John Major said the two governments had not fixed a firm date but were still working on the assumption that Mr. Major and his Irish counterpart, John Bruton, would be meeting some time next month.

He was commenting on reports in the Irish media that Dublin did not consider the meeting worthwhile because Britain had failed to announce any new initiative to break a deadlock in the peace process for Northern Ireland.

The meeting was tentatively scheduled for Sept. 6 and the two leaders were expected to announce news to advance the process to coincide with the first anniversary of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla truce that launched peace in the British province.

But senior Irish officials said the summit was in doubt because it seemed unlikely that the two governments would be able to announce anything to break a deadlock over British demands that the IRA hand over its weapons.

## Yeltsin hopes for break in Chechen deadlock

GROZNY, Russia (R) — President Boris Yeltsin is worried by a deadlock in peace talks with Chechen rebels and hopes his new personal representative, Oleg Lobov, can find a way out, an official said Saturday.

"The talks are in crisis, somewhat deadlocked. No one dares make a move in this stalemate," said Valery Kadzhaya, spokesman for Mr. Lobov, who is a long-time Yeltsin ally and holds the influential post of secretary of Russia's Security Council.

"Lobov is the very person who can untie the knot without cutting it," Mr. Kadzhaya said in the Chechen capital Grozny.

The post gives Mr. Lobov wide powers to coordinate all Moscow's activities in Chechenya, an historically Muslim, non-Slavic region in the north Caucasus where eight-months of conflict between Russian forces and Chechen separatists have killed thousands of people.

Mr. Lobov's appointment Thursday has the effect of upgrading Mr. Yeltsin's personal involvement in the conflict. Peace talks began two months ago but there has been no progress on the most sensitive issue — Chechenya's political future.

The rebels want full independence, while Moscow, which sent in thousands of troops last December, insists the region should remain part of Russia.

But the Chechen rebels, who welcomed the idea of dealing with Mr. Yeltsin's personal representative rather than a more junior delegate, appeared far from optimistic about the Russian president's choice.

A senior aide of the rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said a member of the policy-making Security Council, which had advised Mr. Yeltsin to use force in Chechenya last autumn, could hardly be the right person to negotiate peace.

"Lobov is one of those who started the war, he is one of the authors of the Chechen tragedy," said Mr. Dudayev's spokesman Movlen Salomov.

"Lobov has shown his commitment to the use of force, he cannot be impartial. The Chechen side is deeply disappointed by his appointment," he told reporters in Grozny.

The peace talks between Russia and separatist rebels launched in June have produced a truce and a military agreement.

Under the military deal signed on July 30 the rebels agreed to lay down their arms in return for a partial withdrawal of Russian troops, sent to Chechenya last December to quell its three-year independence bid.

## Sri Lanka police drive off rebel attack; 58 killed

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Hundreds of rebels attacked a police post in eastern Sri Lanka Saturday but were driven off with heavy losses in a three-hour mortar and machinegun battle, army headquarters said.

Two dozen Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas were found dead around the special task force police commando post at Ampilanturai, 12 miles (20 kilometres) south of Batticaloa, the army said.

Military sources told the national news agency that total rebel dead were estimated at 50. Police had monitored radio instructions to the Tigers to fall back taking

their dead with them.

Eight police were killed and 11 wounded in the battle, the agency reported.

Police collected a large stock of guerrilla weapons and ammunition, including machine guns, torpedoes and mortar bombs, after the attack, the news agency said.

Ampilanturai lies inland from Batticaloa Lagoon, surrounded by flat ricefields. Police commandos are the only government force on that side of the lagoon since army troops were transferred to boost a big government offensive in the north.

Of the 800 square miles (2,000 square kilometres) of the Batticaloa administrative

## Gunmen kill 8 workers in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Masked gunmen shot dead eight labourers after dragging them into a shanty town house in the southern port city of Karachi Saturday, witnesses said.

Earlier police said the assailants had burst into the house and had shot the labourers, apparently as they slept.

Residents said at least 15 attackers had arrived in an alley deep inside the squatter settlement early in the morning, firing in the air.

The gunmen, saying they were policemen, broke into several houses and rounded up five people.

They hustled their captives into a house owned by two brothers who had a relative

staying with them. The eight men were bound, blindfolded and shoved into a small room, where they were shot dead, residents said.

The gunmen fired again as they made their escape, wounding to people who had come out to see what was going on.

Most of the people in the area are migrant workers from the small town of Hazara region of the North West Frontier Province.

Police said they did not know the motive for the attack and there was no immediate claim of responsibility. They refused to confirm or deny the account given by residents.

Doctors said the dead men, most in their early 20s, had been shot repeatedly at close range.

Police said at least six people, including two policemen, were killed in separate incidents in Karachi Friday.

The government and the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) plan to resume talks Tuesday to try to end violence in Karachi that has cost more than 1,300 lives this year.

The talks have been stalled since July 31.

The MQM, led by London-based Altaf Hussain, gets support from Karachi's majority Mohajirs, Urdu-speaking Muslims who migrated from India at the time of partition in 1947.

## Tropical storm passes over Florida

MIAMI (AP) — The rainy remains of tropical storm Jerry chugged north Friday into Georgia, leaving behind streams for streets in Florida and residents fearing that storms behind it could flood them again.

Meteorologists said the skies in Jerry's wake should clear, at least for the weekend, offering some respite to Naples, which was inundated with more than 16 inches (41 cms) of rain, and the gulf coast island of Sanibel, which received 15 inches (38 cms).

"People were having fun riding jet skis on Periwinkle Way," the resort island's main thoroughfare, said Chip Hoffman, a concessionaire at the U.N. "Ding" Darling

National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel. "The kids love it. They play in the puddles. Their biggest concern is to watch out for alligators."

Meanwhile, tropical storm Iris threatened Martinique and other Caribbean islands with 30 mph (48 kph) winds. Tropical storm winds extended 160 miles (255 kilometres) from the storm's centre.

Fears of heavy rains and winds along with the possibility of an eruption from a centuries-dormant volcano prompted the government of Montserrat to offer free flights off the 7-by-11 mile (11-by-18 kilometre) island.

Hundreds of miles away, Hurricane Humberto carried 105 mph (168 kph) winds, but it looked like less of a threat after shifting north deep in the Atlantic.

At 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT Saturday), Humberto was centred about 1,450 miles (2,320 kilometres) west of the Cape Verde Islands off Africa, headed northwest near 14 mph (22.34 kph) and likely to weaken slowly. Iris was about 20 miles (32 kilometres) east of St. Lucia, moving west near 10 mph (16 kph) and expected to hit the island Saturday.

Jerry became the 10th named storm of the 1995 hurricane season, the most active to date in 125 years, when it formed Wednesday off Florida's Atlantic coast. The record for named storms in the six-month season was 21 in 1933.

## Heavy rains hit S. Korea, 52 killed or missing

SEOUL (R) — At least 36 people have been killed and 16 reported missing as torrential rains lashed South Korea for a fourth day Saturday with no sign of a let-up, emergency services officials said.

The National Disaster Centre said the death toll since heavy rains struck large parts of the country had risen to 36 with at least 16 reported missing and feared dead as of 4 p.m. (0700 GMT) Saturday.

The latest confirmed victims were two people buried by a landslide in Kyongsang province in the southeast Saturday, an official at the centre said.

Earlier in the day a 40-

year-old woman died when her truck overturned in floods in the same province.

"More casualties are expected as downpours continue in some central areas," the official told Reuters.

There has been about 620 millimetres of rainfall recorded in Boryong county, 150 kilometres southwest of Seoul, since early Wednesday.

It said an average of more than 300 mm (12 inches) of rain had hit central areas.

Emergency services officials went on heightened alert as typhoon Janis, moving northeast at 32 kph (20 mph) headed for a landfall on the west coast of the peninsula late Saturday.

Weathermen predicted more flooding with Janis expected to dump up to 150 mm (six inches) of additional rain on central areas by Sunday, including the capital, Seoul.

They had forecast up to 250 mm (10 inches) of rainfall in those areas but later revised that figures downwards as Janis was found to be weakening as it approached the peninsula.

The Han River Flood Control Centre has issued warnings against possible floods along the river, which bisects Seoul.

"We barely escaped floods along the river last night," an official at the centre said. "Flooding is unlikely but we are not completely safe yet, with the typhoon coming up."

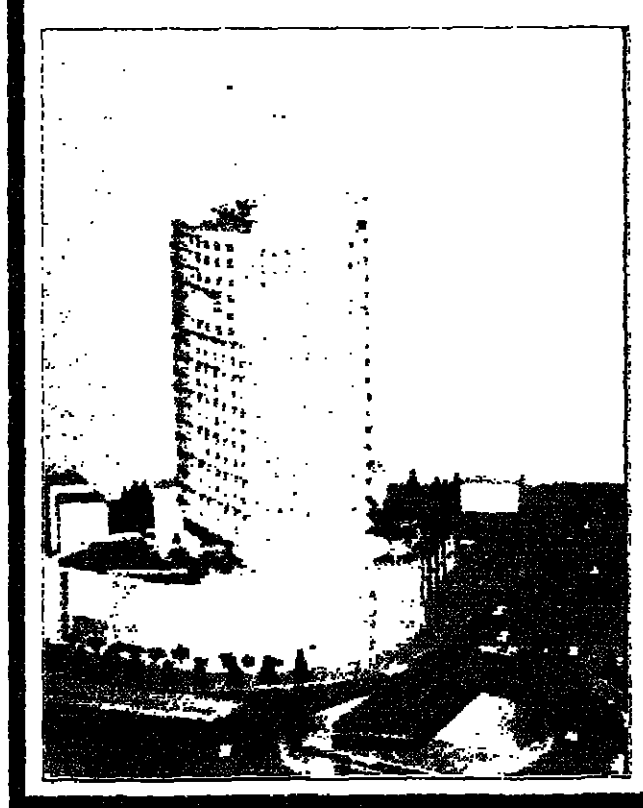
The disaster centre official said police had set up roadblocks in more than 20 districts in the capital since late Friday, including on two main bridges over the Han River, causing extremely heavy rush-hour traffic.

The river overflowed in the summer of 1990 when heavy rainstorm caused extensive damage.

Dozens of schools in the central and eastern provinces of Chungcheong and Kangwon were closed because of flooding.

More than 11,000 people in rain-stricken areas have been forced to evacuate their homes, the official said.

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during working hours starting Monday August 28th till August 31st, 1995. Deadline for handing in complete prequalification documents shall be Thursday, September 7th, 1995.



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### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Not the way to protect consumers

By Dr. Fehed Faneh

THE WHOLESALE price index, calculated by the Central Bank, rose during the second quarter of 1995 by two percentage points in comparison with the same quarter of 1994. At the same time, the cost of living index, compiled by the Department of Statistics, rose in June 1995 by 2.1 percentage points in comparison with June 1994.

The above figures suggest that the going inflation rate in Jordan, between June 1994 and June 1995, was around 2 per cent. But the National Society for the Protection of Consumers (NSPC) issued a study claiming that the cost of living in 1995 is 11.8 per cent higher than in 1994. A copy of this study was handed to me by the director of NSPC when I was making a testimony during a hearing session held by the joint Judicial and Financial Committees of Parliament, over the tax laws package presented by the government to improve the climate for investments in the country. I chose not to criticise the NSPC's document or write about it because I did not want to participate in its spread, which may cause further damage and confusion. However, one of our daily newspapers, unfortunately, volunteered to print it.

The society has picked up 117 consumer commodities. It compared the average prices of these commodities in 1995 with their average prices in 1994. It found that the prices of 78 commodities rose at an average of 14.3 per cent, the

prices of nine commodities dropped by an average of 13.5 per cent, and the prices of 30 commodities remained the same.

In its second step the society excluded the 30 commodities with unchanged prices as being neutral. It then went on to calculate the average of price changes of the remaining 87 commodities. It found that the average net change of prices was 11.5 per cent. The conclusion of the study was that the cost of living in Jordan has risen by 11.5 per cent.

The methodology of this study is a collection of gross errors and compound mistakes. The result was, of course, misleading.

First, the study did not mention any dates or places for taking the prices, and whether they were taken from the same places or from different places.

Second, the choice of 117 commodities was not based on any known criteria. They have nothing to do with the budget of an average Jordanian family, which the society did not bother to survey.

Third, the study treated the 117 commodities as if they had equal importance to the average family. It simply calculated the arithmetic average without giving a specific weight for each commodity. Thus fuel and baglawa were

treated on equal footing.

Fourth, the researcher excluded the commodities whose prices did not change. For instance, if the price of commodity A rose by 20 per cent, the price of commodity B declined by 2 per cent, and the price of commodity C remained stable, the average is not 9 per cent as the society may conclude, but 6 per cent only. But averaging percentages of price changes without giving relative weights to each commodity is not acceptable.

Fifth, upon checking the list of chosen commodities we found 14 of them representing hygiene paper, eight representing forms of yogurt, and five representing various brands of soft drinks, which will give these commodities more weight in the study than in the budget of an average family.

Sixth, the study neglected many important commodities such as bread, fuel, water and electricity. In fact it totally ignored all services which form at least 25 per cent of the average family budget, including transportation, medical care other than medicine, education, communication, house rents, etc.

It is one thing to make a serious study and another to play recklessly with figures to mislead the public and the decision makers alike.

## Sanctions are divisible too

A CLOSE SCRUTINY of relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq would reveal that there is a strong case for easing or lifting the sanctions imposed on the country on a gradual basis and in proportion to the extent that Baghdad goes to meet its obligations under those resolutions. A case in point is the ability of Iraq to market its oil products when the country fulfils its obligations under the Resolution 687 adopted in 1991.

Operative paragraph 22 of this resolution stipulates that all prohibitions against the export of commodities and products originating in Iraq and all restrictions against financial transactions related thereto as contained in Security Council Resolution 661 (1991) shall have no further force or effect when Baghdad completes all actions envisioned in paragraphs 8,9,10,11,12 and 13 of Resolution 687 and the agreement of the council of the measures called for by paragraph 19 of the same resolution. Obviously what the resolutions mean here is Iraqi oil since it is the singular most important commodity of product originating from the country.

Paragraph 19 mentions the necessary steps that should be undertaken for the purpose of the "Fund" that aims to make compensations to states, parties and individuals with claims against Iraq. As for paragraphs 8,9,10,12, and 13, which Iraq must fulfil in order to lift the sanctions on sale of its oil, they are all related to the destruction of chemical, biological and other mass destruction weapons including their means of delivery and all research programmes related to them.

The point to make here is that the U.N. has imposed a variety of obligations on the Iraqi regime and that the fulfilment of some, as clearly shown by Resolution 687, will mean and must mean the lifting of the sanctions on the sale of Iraqi oil to the outside world, subject of course to the requirements of the "Fund" that was created to compensate parties with claims against Iraq. In other words, Baghdad's responsibilities for the purpose of the sale of its oil are not related to the other obligations that are stipulated in other resolutions.

While we continue to apply pressure on Iraq to make amends with the international community, we must also remain fair in so far as paying Iraq its dues.

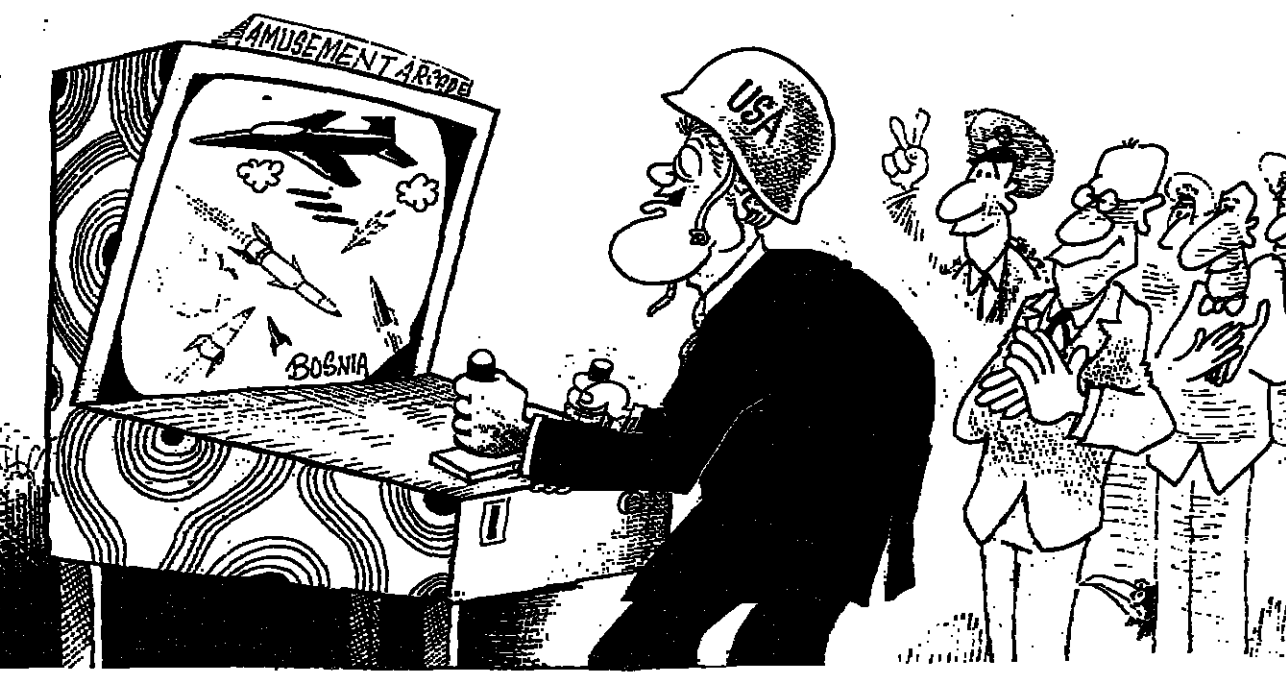
No less than international legitimacy and the credibility of the U.N. are at stake.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour commented on recent revelations by retired Israeli army officers about mass killings of Egyptian prisoners of war in 1956 and 1967. Mohammad Kawash said that the massacres could well be part of a series of other crimes not yet revealed by the Israelis who continue to commit atrocities in Palestine. Describing as barbaric the actions of the Israeli army officers who gave the order for killing the prisoners, the writer said that it was surprising that Egypt's protests and demands for investigations to be conducted into this affair were not backed by any part — Arab or foreign. The world has turned a deaf ear to these atrocities but has never failed to support Israel's ongoing repression against the Arab people of Palestine committed in defiance of all international rules, continued the writer. The killing of the prisoners of war should not be condoned but rather exposed as a horrible crime against humanity, and special monument should be erected in the same spot where the crimes were committed to stand as an eternal witness to Israel's war crimes, he said. The writer said that not a single Israeli war prisoner have ever been reported killed in all Arab-Israeli wars since 1948.

THE PITIABLE conditions in Ruseifa, a city located between Amman and Zarqa and inhabited by quarter of a million people, was the subject of an article published in Al Rai daily Saturday. Ahmad Arafat, a columnist, described as miserable the life of the Ruseifa people, who he said do not enjoy basic services like public transportation like other towns and are subjected to pollution resulting from the garbage dump close to residential districts and the falling dust from the defunct phosphate mines in its vicinity. The writer said that the city's children do not have any public parks, the residents have no public library, clubs and the residents can only hope for passing cars commuting between Amman and Zarqa to make their trip to either city.

M. KAHIL



## Washington believes elements falling in place to topple Iraqi regime

By Jack Redden  
Reuter

AMMAN — Five years after the United States forged the coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait, Washington may finally have the missing element needed for a strategy to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power.

A televised attack on the Iraqi regime this week by His Majesty King Hussein left Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein more isolated than at any time since he took over as president in 1979.

Jordan, in return, finds relations suddenly improving with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, two unrelenting enemies of President Saddam who have previously refused to forgive King Hussein's neutrality in the 1991 war.

"The cards are all there," one diplomat said in summarising the U.S. position. "How it is just a question of progressing with caution and sensitivity to the local sentiment of all these countries concerned."

U.S. analysts in Washington have said that the United States is looking to Iraq's neighbours to press for President Saddam's removal.

The prospect of change emerged with the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of members of President Saddam's inner circle — two of his sons-in-law and their

"Now it is just a question of progressing with caution and sensitivity to the local sentiment."

wives — along with his most carefully guarded secrets. A guiding hand ever since has been the United States.

Washington appears to sense the best chance to unseat President Saddam since unsuccessful revolts erupted in Iraq as his army fled in disarray from U.S.-led forces in 1991. Britain, Washington's closest Western ally in Iraq, praised the King's "courageous and significant" speech.

Although King Hussein did not cut economic ties with Iraq — something Washington would like — he said Jordan was looking for alternatives, such as Saudi Arabia, to its dependence on Iraqi oil in case of a disruption.

The King gave his speech, one of the harshest words he had ever had for the Iraqi leader, after talks with senior U.S. officials touring the Middle East to increase pressure on President Saddam.

"There goes to work with our friends and partners in the region to help in our effort to make sure that we could stand by Jordan," the State Department said

as the U.S. mission ended.

Diplomats said the mission, led by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, which included talks in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, appeared to have mixed success.

Saudi Arabia, which sent its intelligence chief to Amman after the defections, seems ready to bury their 1990 differences and restore normal relations. That could include reopening the oil pipeline to Jordan closed when Amman did not agree with Saudi Arabia's policy on how to reverse Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

But Kuwaitis, who forced out hundreds of thousands of Jordanian workers after their country was liberated, remained suspicious of U.S. overtures to help Jordan, diplomats said.

The King's speech may have been the reassurance Kuwait wanted. "We can consider this as a turning point in Jordan's position towards the Iraqi regime," one Kuwaiti official said.

A Western diplomat said Kuwait had wanted to hear concern about Kuwaitis

missing since Iraq's invasion and support of sanctions to remove President Saddam. Both elements were in the King's speech.

It is not easy for Jordan to make the break. Popular support for Iraq remains strong. Jordan is totally dependent on Iraqi oil and there is a fear of Iraqi agents creating trouble.

"They are very nervous — and they should be," said one diplomat.

While not ordering an unpopular closing of the Iraqi border — the King said it would impose extra suffering on people already short of food and medicine — he unequivocally joined those who think it is time for a change.

That message was reinforced with praise for Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, the key defector and mastermind of Iraq's secret military programmes. The general called from the Royal Court for the overthrow of President Saddam.

Having further isolated President Saddam and intimidated him with military manoeuvres, Washington's next step is unclear. Iraq, appealing for good relations despite the King's words, appears to fear that Jordan will tighten the economic noose.

Following the tilt in the Jordanian position towards the U.S. position on the Iraqi regime, the hope is strange here that Saddam will not last long.

### LETTERS

## 'Mission impossible'

To the Editor:

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE involves the agony of trying to make a telephone call in Amman. Police stations are filled with telephone sets filing complaints against their users for physical abuse. Oh, if only I could find out who is behind the recording on the telephone. I am sure many share this "friendly" feeling with me. Anyway, I will not get into details since everybody knows about it, whether they have telephones or not. Rumour has it that this subject has become part of the curriculum at schools and therefore, is compulsory.

With the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA) on the way, I am sure that the participants would want to make several phone calls here and there. The stock market will be booming through this period, too. Everybody will be expecting positive results and therefore, communication will be a vital factor in ensuring the success of this summit. I do have a recommendation for the authorities to overcome this problem.

It seems that this problem will not be attended to soon, and, in order to save the authorities and Jordan the embarrassment, I would recommend that we use messenger pigeons, the ones our ancestors used when sending their messages from one place to another. These friendly birds will not cost the ministry a penny. Besides, they are pollution free. This way we can ensure that communication is uninterrupted and prove to everyone that this is not mission impossible after all.

This is a reasonable solution for the time being since many have lost faith in the Ministry of Communications, especially those who paid triple the charge and have been waiting for years for Santa Clause to climb down their chimney with the promised line.

Just a thought for the day!

Al Ghazarian,  
Amman.

## Arafat, Natanyahu and suicide bombers

To the Editor:

ON THE very day on which Israel proudly announced that it had transferred to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in the Gaza Strip and Jericho powers to act in eight fields of governmental administrative activity (albeit unimportant powers such as postal services, insurance and the like), a suicide bomber, presumably a Palestinian, exploded a bomb aboard a Jerusalem bus, killing himself (or herself) and five passengers and wounding about 100 other persons.

That same evening, the leader of the opposition in the Israeli Knesset, Benjamin Netanyahu, was interviewed on Israeli television and stated, among other things, that in his opinion the peace negotiations, which the Rabin government is carrying out with the Palestinians, cannot bring about the peace to which Israel aspires. He broadly hinted that if Yasser Arafat, to whom Mr. Rabin is magnanimously turning over authority in Gaza, is unable to put an end to Hamas "terrorist" activities against Israelis, then he probably condones them.

In all fairness to Mr. Arafat, it must be pointed out that all the suicide bombings to date took place inside Israel proper or Israeli controlled territory. It is hardly likely, therefore, that the suicide bombers carrying two or three kilograms of explosives strapped around the waist could have come from the Gaza Strip without being detected by the vigilant and omnipresent Israeli army in the logical assumption is that the explosive devices were actually prepared and fitted around bombers' waists inside Israel proper.

Be that as it may, and regardless of the location in which the problem of terrorism cannot be solved by a tightening of the screws on the already beleaguered Yasser Arafat, nor by scrapping the ongoing peace negotiations, as Mr. Netanyahu would like to do. Such a course of action would only deepen the suspicion and hostility towards Israel, which the vast majority of the Arab peoples everywhere still feel, particularly in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Syria and Lebanon as well as Jordan and Egypt. The notwithstanding Israel's peace treaties with these two countries, Israel would do well to remember that no peace treaties which it has signed with the governments of the Arab world, guarantee its internal security simply because it is extremely difficult for any democratic government to tighten its clandestine terrorist activity within its borders without the risk of trespassing on and invading the domain of personal rights and liberties to which a citizen is entitled under the constitution.

In my humble opinion, the only course open to Israel, if it and to become an accepted family member of the Arab World Eastern states, is to convince the Arab people (not only their governments) that it has finally discarded its Zionist expansionist goals by returning all the Arab lands it occupied in the 1967 war to the well advised to stop harping on its security needs, and stop putting forward this transparently flimsy excuse in order to more territorial and other concessions from its Arab neighbours.

George Kawar,  
Advocate,  
Amman.

## U.S., China face rough road ahead

By Sarah Jackson-Han  
AFP

WASHINGTON — China and the United States took major steps towards easing their strained ties with the release of a jailed Chinese-American activist and the decision to let First Lady Hillary Clinton go to Beijing.

But experts agree the two face a rough road as they address outstanding bilateral issues, from human rights and missile sales to China's stepped-up military manoeuvring and U.S. relations with China's bitter rival, Taiwan.

"The stakes are very high," said James Lilley, a former U.S. ambassador to

China and currently a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute here.

"You've got some really major problems," he said, citing the danger of a regional arms race with successive upgrades of the Chinese arsenal matched by upgrades in U.S. arms sold to Taiwan.

Even as the announcement of Mrs. Clinton's trip was being made in Yellowstone National Park, where the first family was visiting. Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff was in Beijing for talks with Chinese officials.

Human rights, trade and economic issues, Taiwan, and China's alleged export

of M-11 missiles in violation of an agreement not to sell such technology are all likely to arise in those discussions, State Department officials say.

Mr. Tarnoff "is also trying the lay the groundwork" for additional high-level contacts, one State Department official said Friday. Those could include a summit between President Bill Clinton and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin.

They would also include a resumption of military and other exchanges that China broke off in anger after the president of Taiwan was allowed to pay a private U.S. visit in June,

reversing a longstanding ban on U.S. visits of any kind by ranking Taiwan officials.

China, which still claims sovereignty over Taiwan and has never ruled out the use of force to reclaim it, bristles at moves that appear to bolster Taiwan's international standing.

Its official press has kept up a steady attack on Washington for allowing the Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui's visit.

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# Features

## Banks allowed to lend, invest in foreign currency

(Continued from page 1)

foreign currency and to withdraw or transfer any part of deposited funds without any conditions.

Bankers quoted by Reuters said limiting banks to fixed or floating rate prime bond issues and key government debt bonds with a maximum 10-year maturity was to ensure investments were in less credit risk instruments.

Bankers were restricted to placing foreign exchange holdings in overseas banks, usually utilised in the lower yield Eurodollar deposit market.

Investing in bonds and in-

ternational capital markets was on a case-by-case basis. Banks have to put aside 35 per cent of foreign deposits as compulsory reserves with the Central Bank.

Jordan's 21 private banks have a total deposit base of JD 5,512 billion (\$7 billion) which include JD 2,070 billion (\$2.9 billion) in foreign currency.

Bankers say the new rules will allow banks to increase their profitability by investing in higher yield debt instruments. While placing safeguards against high risk issues.

"It will give local banks more avenues to invest their

foreign currency holdings... they can now invest them in higher yield instruments," Khaled Al Masri, senior investment supervisor at the Arab Jordan Investment Bank, told Reuters.

Mr. Masri said the liberalised rules should make banks more competitive and allow an increased deposit base while affording them higher flexibility in investing surplus non-dinar funds.

Bankers say the new rules also reinstate existing foreign exchange rules that allow free convertibility and repatriation of non-resident foreign currency accounts in Jordanian banks.

## Sanctions could be eased, but not lifted in short term

(Continued from page 1)

The belief among official and non-official circles in Jordan is that the United States will not allow for lifting the embargo before the toppling of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. His Majesty King Hussein indicated that much Wednesday in his address to the nation in which he criticised Iraqi policies. Informed sources said that Jordan was given a clear message by Washington that the sanctions will not be lifted before the Iraqi regime is changed. They said the message was conveyed to the Kingdom before the Aug. 8 defection of Hussein Kamel Hassan, a top Iraqi official.

Accordingly, they say, the U.S. will continue on rejecting Iraq's claims, that it has met its obligations under U.N. resolutions, with its difficulty in proving that it is respecting the human rights of all Iraqis providing it with the ground for arguing in favour of keeping the sanctions.

The latest indication of the fight that the U.S. will put up against lifting the sanctions came Friday when the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, followed the traditional hard-line the U.S. adopted towards Iraq in denying Baghdad any credit for revealing new data about its biological weapons to Mr. Ekeus.

Ms. Albright said Iraq's latest step did more to show its low credibility than to increase the chances for lifting the sanctions.

"For Iraq to regain its credibility," said Ms. Albright, "it has a very long way to go."

Many observers believe that "long way" will not be covered before the ousting of President Saddam and that the United States has enough clout and the legal power through its veto right, to

block the lifting of the embargo.

And with the recent defection to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Hassan, the U.S. appears more hopeful that its efforts to topple President Saddam will soon bear fruit. Washington sees the defection as a major blow to the Iraqi regime. U.S. officials have increased their sabre-rattling against the Iraqi regime since the defection, which they have viewed as a significant step towards its removal. Accordingly, the U.S. is more likely to increase the pressure against Baghdad now, that it believes its ambition of toppling President Saddam appears closer to realisation than ever.

That will translate into action aimed at tightening the noose around the Iraqi government through seeking its further isolation and maintaining the sanctions rather than easing them.

But Mr. Sahlah believes cracks in the embargo will start appearing before their official termination. Others say that once Iraq is allowed to sell its oil, it will have the money to achieve a major dent in the embargo with many companies and countries vying for lucrative trade with and contracts in Iraq.

One former official familiar with the works of the U.N. said the Security Council will find ways to prevent such an eventuality.

Despite clear signs that France, China and Russia would favour a partial lifting of the sanctions, Ms. Albright said Friday the U.S. has enough support at the Security Council to maintain them.

If the U.S. comes under pressure to comply with Resolution 687 and lift the embargo on Iraqi oil sales after Mr. Ekeus reports that his mission has been completed successfully, Washing-

ton will seek to impose strict conditions on how the sales should be conducted with the purpose of keeping the heat on the Iraqi regime.

The Security Council offered to allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil to purchase food and medicine. But the conditions of the resolution's sale would not have allowed Iraq the chance to use the revenues in any way that could lead to breaking the embargo. Iraq rejected the offer, just as it earlier turned down to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil, on the grounds that the conditions of the sale represented an encroachment on its sovereignty because the U.N. will supervise the revenue of the sale.

Gen. Hassan is said to have pushed for accepting the offer and the Iraqi regime's insistence on rejecting them was a significant factor in his decision to defect.

The former official said that under pressure from the U.S., the Security Council could insist that Iraq put the oil revenue in an escrow account so that all expenditure is accounted for. The council could also demand that Iraq channel huge amounts of the oil revenue to compensate Kuwait for the war damages and even go as far as denying Iraq the right to a free hand on using the revenue on the grounds that the regime cannot be trusted and still poses a regional threat.

This procedure, which has the double objective of ensuring that Iraq does not obtain goods prohibited under the sanctions and guarding against any breaking of the embargo. It will also aim, said observers, at bringing the desired goals of the powers that count at the U.N. mainly the U.S., which is the toppling of President Saddam.

## Iraqi decision to air King's speech remains a puzzle

(Continued from page 1)

that he has nothing to fear, despite stepped up pressure from various parties against his regime.

"It is a smart move that shows some confidence," said one senior official, adding that it also "gives the impression that the Iraqi leadership has no reason to feel threatened, especially that it was clear in the King's speech that Jordan will not take any action to change the status quo of relations with Baghdad on the economic and human levels."

"Regarding the talk that Jordan might close its borders with Iraq or block food and medicine supplies to its people, this is something that has never crossed our minds..." the King had said in his speech.

The Iraqi regime has received a blow after the defection to Jordan of Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Hassan, his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, and their wives, Raghad and Rana, both daughters of President Saddam. Gen. Hassan not only disparaged the Iraqi regime, but also called for its overthrow altogether.

For the sanctions to be lifted, the U.N. Security Council demands that Iraq comply with all ceasefire terms that along with eliminating the country's mass destruction weapons, also include humanitarian issues like ensuring human rights, democracy...

"Maybe Saddam thinks that the move would help him look democratic at a time when he is being criticised for his lack of democracy and for dictatorship," a government official said.

Other analysts have interpreted the move in a much more sceptical manner saying that President Saddam might

be laying the groundwork for any contemplated action against Jordan in retaliation for its position.

"The (Iraqi) leadership would have given legitimacy for any possible action against Jordan by carrying the speech that might be viewed as one directed against Saddam," said a parliamentarian.

On the other hand, some Iraqis said the move simply boiled down to what they described as "a desperate move by a falling-out regime that has run out of options."

"Keeping in mind that Saddam does not have much to play on, I believe that this is just another little media game aimed at discrediting Gen. Hassan who has shaken an already disintegrating system," said one Iraqi.

Some politicians, however, believe that since the King has made no direct reference to President Saddam himself, the speech would be perceived as a reiteration of Jordan's support for Iraq, and that carrying it denotes a sign of goodwill on part of the Iraqi leadership and its appreciation of the Jordanian concern for the well-being of the country.

"It reflects close relations with Iraq and proves that they do not want to escalate tension but rather keep a low profile," said one governmental source, adding that it also shows that "Iraqis accept our position."

But as the official put it: "The leadership in Iraq is so unpredictable and it is hard to know what they're thinking. In any case the Iraqi regime might have thought that there was no way to prevent Iraqis from hearing the speech and decided to take the credit for showing it themselves."

## Sudan frees political detainees

(Continued from page 12)

Mahdi arrived at his home in Omdurman, the twin city of Sudan's capital Khartoum, before noon.

Thousands of his supporters shouted Allahu Akbar and some wept in joy as Dr. Mahdi, 59, got off his car.



DEMOLITION: An Israeli army bulldozer demolishes the home where Ibrahim Qawasmeh, described by Israeli security forces as a member of Hamas, was shot dead by Israeli soldiers on Friday in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron (AFP photo)

## Clash over rape claim delays UAE killing trial

Al-AIN (AFP) — An Islamic court on Saturday postponed the case of a teenager Filipina maid facing the death penalty for murder as doctors clashed over whether she had been raped by her victim.

Presiding Judge Mohammad Tatwani adjourned the case in a retrial against Sarah Balabagan, 16, until Wednesday and called new witnesses.

Problems arose when a doctor backtracked on earlier statements that the girl was raped by her United Arab Emirates (UAE) employer, Mohammad Abdullah Al-Nalushi.

"The defilement happened at least one week before I examined her" on the day following the rape, Madeleine Aryan, a general practitioner from Egypt, told the court, in Al Ain 160, kilometres (60 miles), east of Abu Dhabi.

The prosecution had used the tests to try to cast doubt on Ms. Balabagan's claim of rape.

## PLO jails suspects in Jericho

(Continued from page 1)

top bombmaker, Yahya Ayyash — known as "The Engineer" — is still at large.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is a fierce opponent of the 1993 Israel-PLO peace deal.

Israel and the PLO are believed to be several weeks away from an agreement on implementing the second stage of self-rule — an Israeli troop redeployment in the occupied West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elections.

"I think if we are realistic, one should talk about initialising the agreement between Sept. 3 and 6," Dr. Erekat said in Gaza.

Self-rule was due to have expanded beyond Gaza and Jericho more than a year ago but attacks by militants which killed over 80 Israelis slowed the pace of negotiations.

Tayeb Abdul Rahim, general-secretary of the authority, told Reuters that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat instructed Palestinian negotiators to remain firm in their demand for a significant Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Some 400 Jewish settlers live in the heart of Hebron and Israel wants its troops to remain to protect them.

In an act of defiance, Hebron residents collected money and prepared to resist.

Police then said the unidentified victim might have been European after receiving reports that a German tourist was missing. However, the tourist was found later in the week.

Naeh, who was divorced, had lived alone in Jerusalem's Kiryat Moshe neighbourhood. She was identified when her family came forward after seeing the morgue photographs, the radio reports said.

## Prince urges focus on science

(Continued from page 1)

through scientific research and integration and coordination between policies governing science and technology activities on the one hand and application of scientific research on the ground.

He said technology is closely connected with educational systems and scientific research and also with the state's political and economic management stressing that no prosperity or stability can be achieved without interaction between the three elements.

The scientists and experts in various walks of life have a duty to maximise investment in education, scientific research and development and in giving incentives for creative work involving participation of various official and non-governmental organisations, professional associations and others, the Crown Prince said. He added that such approach would contribute most positively to socio-

"I am sure the defilement did not coincide with the incident," she added referring to the murder which took place on July 19, 1994.

But another doctor reported that on the day after the killing, she saw "wounds in the hymen" of the girl, who was then 15.

"She was wounded in the right side of the neck, and also in the vagina," added Vatsalan Sivadas, a gynaecologist from India. "They indicate an attempted sexual assault in the 48 hours prior to the examination."

Ms. Balabagan, a Muslim, "suffered a defilement attempt which did not succeed," she said, adding that explained why lab tests had not found any sperm.

The prosecution had used the tests to try to cast doubt on Ms. Balabagan's claim of rape.

build a house demolished by Israel on Friday after its soldiers killed two Hamas militants hiding there.

Meanwhile the fourth victim of Monday's suicide bombing was an Israeli woman and not a European tourist as initially believed, Israeli Radio reports said.

The victim, 45-year-old Hanna Naeh from Jerusalem, was identified after police published a morgue photograph.

Five people were killed in Monday's bus bombing in Jerusalem. Three of the dead were quickly identified as two Israelis and an American, leaving the badly mutilated bodies of a man and a woman.

Initially there was speculation that the woman might have been the bomber, but that possibility was ruled out when the Shin Bet security service caught the attacker's mastermind who, in turn, identified the assailant as male.

Police then said the unidentified victim might have been European after receiving reports that a German tourist was missing. However, the tourist was found later in the week.

Naeh, who was divorced, had lived alone in Jerusalem's Kiryat Moshe neighbourhood. She was identified when her family came forward after seeing the morgue photographs, the radio reports said.

## Prince urges focus on science

(Continued from page 1)

economic development in the country.

Prince Hassan submitted a five-point plan which he said would help scientists attain their aspired goals:

One: Due care should be given to natural resources and their wise utilisation in the most ideal manner so as to avoid wastage, search for artificial substitutes and increase of production.

Two: Development of human resources which can absorb modern technology and employ it in achieving socio-economic development.

Three: Finding incentives for spending on scientific research and creating the right atmosphere for a solid base for development.

Four: Applying the results of research on various aspects of development.

Five: Due attention should be given to publication of research results.

## Algerian militants kill women

(Continued from page 12)

long as it failed to abide by the law.

President Liamine Zeroual, who has not yet announced his own candidacy, says the election will be the first step in a process to restore legitimacy since the army-backed government scrapped a 1992 parliamentary election which the FIS was poised to win.

The FLN says, however, the poll will have no significance in the absence of an agreement with FIS, which is banned and has threatened to fight the election with violence.

Speculation over whether Mr. Zeroual will stand in the election was fuelled on Saturday by former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Belaid who told the Constantine-based newspaper Al Aci: "I prefer Zeroual as president of the republic."

In July Mr. Zeroual said a three-month dialogue with the FIS had failed, blaming the fundamentalist leaders "intransigence."

Algerian newspapers have said Mr. Malek's candidacy will give the poll more "credibility" as the six other candidates to come forward so far are considered as simply also-rans.

Mr. Malek was a member of the High Council of State, a five-person collective body which replaced President Chadli Benjedid in 1992.

Mr. Malek, a former ambassador to Washington, London and Paris as well as foreign minister, is well-known in the international community for mediating between the United States and Iran in the U.S. embassy hostage crisis when he was ambassador to Tehran from 1979 to 1981.

## Musa delivers message, discusses Iraqi events

(Continued from page 1)

offer itself as a base for anti-regime activities by Iraqi dissidents and that the granting of asylum to Gen. Hassan, his brother Saddam Kamel, and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam, and a cousin and several Iraqi soldiers did not signal any shift in Jordan's policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Foreign Minister Kabarti, saying the issue of Iraq occupied "the bulk" of his discussions with Mr. Musa implied that this was the central message given to the Egyptian minister when he answered a reporter's question whether Jordan would allow Gen. Hassan to launch anti-Saddam activities from Jordanian territory.

"This is an issue that concerns the Iraqi people," said Mr. Kabarti. "We in Jordan have repeated several times that Jordan will never be a base against any Arab country," added the minister, noting that Sharif Zeid, in a recent meeting with Parliament, had reaffirmed the Kingdom's policy.

"Jordan has and will always seek to strengthen relations with Arab countries," said Mr. Kabarti. He referred to the success that Jordan has had since this year in its efforts to improve relations with the Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The comments by the Jordanian officials and Mr. Musa himself indicated that both sides were playing down an obvious difference in viewpoints over the

defection of Gen. Hassan, and the defector's statements that the Iraqi government was contemplating plans to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq denied the charges and put on a television programme with a recording that it said was the voice of Gen. Hassan urging Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in October 1994. The television also asserted that Hussein Kamel was the lone member of the Revolutionary Command Council who advocated such an approach.

Gen. Hassan dismissed the recording as a fake.

In comments over the weekend, Mr. Mubarak said he doubted Gen. Hassan's statements that Iraq was planning an invasion of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

While he welcomed as courageous King Hussein's speech on Wednesday in which the Monarch criticised Iraqi policies, the Egyptian president also suggested that the address was politically motivated.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Musa's visit here managed to clear the air.

Mr. Mubarak said in public comments on Thursday that any change in the Iraqi system was an issue that concerned the people of Iraq and no external forces should meddle in internal Iraqi affairs.

In arrival comments, Mr. Musa echoed his president's words. "I will not discuss anything about bringing down the Iraqi government

## U.S. forces beefed up

(Continued from page 1)

telligence services got it wrong causing confusion in Washington.

"The balloon burst, because the matter was based from the start on false information made up by American intelligence services and broadcast by the Pentagon," the daily Babel said.

Washington announced on Aug. 17 that it had ordered pre-positioned equipment in the region to move closer to Iraq after signalling five weeks of "unusual activity" by the Iraqi military at their main bases.

But five days later U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry admitted the United States had detected "no sign" that Iraq was preparing to invade its neighbours.

"Perry had to backtrack and deny his own lie. But it won't be Washington's last lie which remains determined to provoke crises with Iraq to maintain the embargo," said the paper run by Uday, the son of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"The series of lies shows the confusion which reigns in heart of the U.S. administration, due in a large part to electoral campaigns" for a presidential poll in 1996.

The United States has however, assembled 1,400 troops in Kuwait to take part in joint manoeuvres designed to deter Iraq from any new invasion of the emirate.

The exercises were hastily brought forward after the defections on Aug. 8 of the former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan.

There was no official reaction meanwhile to reports that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had offered political asylum to President Saddam.

But the daily Al Jumhuriya called on Iraqis to ignore foreign media reports that the defections had weakened the government.

"The Iraqis are experienced in psychological warfare. They mustn't fall into the trap," a columnist wrote in the government paper.

He said Iraq would win a lifting of the U.N. oil and trade sanctions imposed in August 1990 when it invaded Kuwait since it had now revealed all the secrets of its weapons programmes.

"We are close to the goal and we have no choice but to resist the armada of hostile media and be convinced that the instability and crises in Iraq talked about by the Americans and Zionists are pure lies."

U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said Saturday that Baghdad had handed over a large amount of new and valuable information to the U.N. Special Commission on disarmament (UNSCOM) (see page 2).

## U.S. forces beefed up

since it is an issue that has to be decided by the people of Iraq themselves and not something for me or you to talk about," he said.

However, he said Egypt was concerned over "the suffering of the Iraqi people" and that the Baghdad government should do "whatever possible to eliminate the unfortunate situation."

"We hope that the developments...will allow Iraq to return to a normal situation and to participate in the Arab march though this has a lot of conditions," said the minister.

"It is certain that the current Iraqi regime has, through its actions, raised many question marks towards its ability to take part in this march," he added.

Despite the public niceties, observers said in private, Egypt appeared to be unhappy by the high-profile political focus on Jordan brought in by King Hussein's decision to grant asylum to the Iraqi defectors.

However, there is no contradiction in the positions of Jordan and Egypt that any change in Iraq was an issue left to the Iraqi people and that external forces should not interfere in internal Iraqi affairs.

According to a Jordanian official quoted by Reuters, "though Egypt might not like to see Jordan trying to take an initiative on Iraq because (Egypt) has always liked to be the leader in the region, it cannot but support our ideas because they will be contracting their five-year-old anti-Saddam position."



## Arab Gulf states set to boost 1995 oil income, cut deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oil export earnings by six Arab Gulf states will likely grow in 1995 and help them ease their budget deficits and reverse a downturn in their economies, experts said Friday.

Although oil prices have slipped over the past few weeks, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states expect their income to be higher than in 1994 due to a strong improvement in the first half of 1995, the experts said.

Gulf states expect the average oil price to be higher this year than in 1994 due to relative compliance by OPEC with its production ceiling. This has made them project an increase in their 1995 revenues by between 10 and 15 per cent, said an economic expert close to the GCC.

The average price of OPEC's basket of seven crudes surged to around \$17.5 in the first half of 1995 compared with around \$14.5 in the first half of 1994 and \$15.5 in the whole of 1994.

With prices at around \$15.8 currently, the average price will likely range be-

tween \$16 and \$17 in 1995, the experts said.

They noted prices were unlikely to decline further in the last quarter as seasonal demand picks up, and the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is staying mostly within the official output ceiling.

The experts also cited U.S. statements downplaying speculation about an imminent removal of the oil embargo against Iraq. Such speculation had in the past put pressure on oil prices although several OPEC members had tried to assure the market they could absorb the return of the Iraqis.

United Nations disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus raised hopes last week of a U.N. resolution easing the crippling Gulf war sanctions on Iraq after Baghdad provided him with fresh information about its biological warfare programme.

Mr. Ekeus, who was to report to the U.N. Security Council Friday on his latest mission in Baghdad, said the

new information had quickened the process towards ending the five-year-old embargo.

But the United States quickly dashed hopes of such a move, with State Department spokesman David Johnson saying Iraq's response was not enough.

"Iraq must demonstrate its peaceful intentions by complying with all its obligations," he told reporters in Washington on Wednesday.

He referred to Kuwaiti prisoners of war in Iraq, return of Kuwaiti property seized during the 1990 Iraqi invasion and Baghdad's involvement in terrorism.

Oil executives in the Gulf said crude prices remained relatively firm because of the latest political upheaval in Iraq, which was the second biggest oil producer in OPEC before the invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

With an average price of between \$16 and \$17 a barrel and production of around 13

million barrels per day, GCC oil revenues are expected to range between \$76 billion and \$80 billion in 1995, they said.

This compares with around \$70 billion in 1994 and nearly \$74 billion in 1993, when crude prices averaged \$16.33.

The 1995 price is also higher by \$1 to \$2 than the level projected in most GCC budgets, which are financed mainly from oil exports.

"There is no doubt this will largely support the GCC coffers and reduce their budget deficits unless there was an unexpected increase in spending. The revenue growth will also boost their economies, most of which recorded a negative growth in 1994 due to low oil prices," a Gulf economist said.

The combined GCC budget deficit was projected at around \$9.6 billion in 1995 compared with \$17.3 billion in 1994. The 1994 shortfall was lower because most members trimmed expenditure and forecast higher revenue.



A Bangladeshi river gypsy, woman sets out on a country boat with her merchandise for sale at Dhaka's low-lying Kaliganj suburb. These gypsies, who live on wooden boats earning a wage from selling herbal medicines and jewellery, are on the verge of dying out as many of the young choose an

urban lifestyle over life on the river. The upcoming U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing in September will address issues such as problems women face in health, education and access to economic resources and positions of political power (AFP photo)

## French jobs, austerity poser after resignation of Madelin

PARIS (R) — French unions and opposition parties Saturday welcomed the shock resignation of Finance Minister Alain Madelin and predicted the government faced future crises in reconciling its twin plans of job creation and budget curbs.

Mr. Madelin was forced out 100 days after the formation of the centre-right government Friday for suggesting less generous public sector pensions and welfare handouts, contradicting the spirit of reforms outlined by President Jacques Chirac.

Newspapers were unanimous in calling it the first crisis for the new government and said Mr. Madelin had been forced out. "Juppe sacks Madelin," the Parisien said.

Socialist Party leader Henri Emmanuelli said Mr. Madelin's departure was "the first serious political evidence of the demagogic contradictions that made up the web of Mr. Chirac's policies... in the presidential campaign. There will be more."

Mr. Chirac has said

France's top priority will be a war on near-record unemployment and extra aid for the homeless and the poor. At the same time, France is planning austerity to slash a huge deficit.

"Madelin's aggressive behaviour left the government no choice," said Louis Vianney, general secretary of the communist CGT. But he added: "We need more than just this minister's resignation to change things."

Mr. Madelin's successor Jean Arthuis, 50, until now minister for economic development and planning and seen as less outspoken and less for a free marketer, pledged to stick to Mr. Chirac's policies.

The first priority is "winning the battle for jobs while preserving social cohesion... the second priority is to control public spending... and to cut deficits," he said Saturday.

Mr. Juppe, announcing Mr. Madelin's departure without a word of regret, said Mr. Madelin's statements "contradicted the govern-

ment's desire for reform based on policies of fiscal and social justice."

Communist Party boss Robert Hue said Mr. Madelin's departure highlighted contradictions in policy between jobs and Mr. Madelin's crusade to enable France to meet strict economic criteria in the European Union's Maastricht treaty.

"You can't claim to attack a social fracture while serving Maastricht and 'money as king'," he said.

Mr. Chirac will meet Mr. Madelin Tuesday, the Elysee Palace said.

The daily Liberation said it would complicate preparations for the 1996 budget and was especially bad for France "where the departing minister was a sort of guarantee of financial orthodoxy in the eyes of the financial community."

Earlier this month, Mr. Juppe ordered ministers to cut France's public sector deficit to four per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) next year from a forecast five per cent rate this year.

## ASEAN decides to remove tariffs on 1,304 farm products

SINGAPORE (AFP) — The booming South East Asian economies decided Friday to liberalise tariffs for unprocessed agricultural products for the first time as part of an effort to establish a free-trade area by 2005.

Agriculture ministers of the seven-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced at a joint news conference here that tariff reduction on 1,304 farm products would be implemented from Jan. 1, 1996.

The list of the product was not made available.

"This is the first time tariffs

for unprocessed agriculture products are to be reduced," ASEAN Secretary General Ajit Singh said after two days of talks among the grouping's agriculture ministers.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, which joined the grouping this month and is scheduled to come on board the free-trade bandwagon in 2006.

The six other ASEAN countries have vowed to reduce tariffs to a maximum five per cent by January 2003 through a mechanism called the Common Effective Pre-

ferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme.

The tariff reduction process for most manufactured and processed agricultural products began in 1993 under theCEPT scheme, the engine of the ASEAN Free Trade Area.

Mr. Singh said that the ministers also decided that individual nations will pre-

pare a list of "sensitive" unprocessed agriculture products for which tariffs could also be reduced.

The list would be submitted to the ASEAN economic ministers meeting in Brunei next month, which would decide on a broad mechanism to liberalise regional trade in farm and manufactured products considered sensitive by member countries, he said.

**THE BETTER HALF** By Glasbergen

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MILOB  
OTTOH  
RUNEY  
DEEBIS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: CLEFT MERCY DOUBLY NOODLE

Saturday's Jumbles: CLEFT MERCY DOUBLY NOODLE

**THE Daily Crossword** by George Urquhart

ACROSS

- 1 Panorama
- 6 Riding whip
- 10 Sailor's drink
- 14 Great expanse
- 15 Time period
- 16 Pro —
- 17 IN city
- 19 Opposed
- 20 Baseball stat
- 21 Fine spray
- 22 Tough, fibrous tissue
- 24 Loudness unit
- 25 — an ear (listen)
- 26 Learned person
- 29 Far from stingy
- 33 Hag
- 34 Mardi —
- 35 Florence's river
- 36 Mine entrance
- 37 Get up
- 38 Compensated
- 39 "Whatever —"
- 40 "Little Women" character
- 41 Same as above
- 42 Land and the buildings upon it
- 44 Cash in
- 45 Smell
- 46 Use profanely
- 47 Kitchen device
- 50 Narrow opening
- 51 Wander about
- 54 Sitarist Shankar
- 55 LA city
- 58 Actor Guinness
- 59 Enthusiasm
- 60 Senator Hatch
- 61 Singer Home
- 62 Terrible
- 63 Immature

DOWN

- 1 Cast a ballot
- 2 Bakery worker
- 3 Antitoxins
- 4 Jailer
- 5 Windflower
- 6 Pursue
- 7 Disastrous defeat
- 8 Not home
- 9 Make-believe
- 10 MI city
- 11 Author Ayn —
- 12 Sarge's dog
- 13 Profit
- 18 Indication
- 23 Comp. dir.
- 24 CA city
- 25 Tether
- 26 Overcharge for tickets
- 27 Passion
- 28 Curtain fabric
- 29 Southern dish
- 30 Speak in a pompous manner
- 31 Bring together
- 32 Biblical wicked city
- 34 Actress Garson
- 37 Soaked up
- 41 Annihilate
- 43 Food fish
- 44 Devastation
- 46 Genetic copy
- 47 Nuncupative
- 48 Colorless
- 49 Divisible by two
- 50 Headliner
- 51 Acknowledged advocate
- 52 Not "ter"
- 53 — Xiaoping (Chinese leader)
- 56 — Baba
- 57 Spanish gold

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

PAPA WADED SHAW  
ELAN ILENE TONI  
LIRA LORIS ARIE  
EEK THUNDERBALL  
GNASHED ROLLED  
AIL SUEDE  
THE TEMPEST ABA  
AIROF ANS ATTIC  
MER STORMFRONT  
GOWER TOU  
ACCEDE ANNEXED  
FUNNELCLOUD RAE  
IGOR TOURS SASE  
RATE ELITE OYER  
ETES ROSAS ISLE

**Peanuts**

**Andy Capp**

**Mutt'n' Jeff**

**HOROSCOPE**  
FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Being with friends and improving associations is fine today. Take pains to handle routine task in efficient manner. Get it all out of the way.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Show appreciation to those who have power over your affairs and gain their further goodwill. Use modern methods to improve your work today and thus increase your success.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 20) See what you can do about enlarging your vision so that you may advance in your line of endeavor and be wise to any methods that will help you along.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take no risks with your health today. Handle your responsibilities more efficiently and it becomes easier for you to get them done.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Support those associates who need your help now. Listen to the complaints of family members today and give help where needed to solving problems. Don't put this on a back burner.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You have to be more enthused if you are to get the tasks done that are important to you today. Strive for increased happiness in your personal life.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your business and financial affairs in better order. Be sure to keep promises that you have made to others and you will be well respected.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Be more considerate of the needs of family members today and in establishing more harmony at home. Avoid one who gossips too much about everything... especially about you!

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Discuss your views with associates and improve regular routines today. Plan how to gain your most cherished aims and make the effort to make them happen.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Look over your financial condition and then confer with experts to improve it. Take no risks in motion today or there could be trouble.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Use tact with others and they will soon give you the favours you desire. The evening is fine for social pleasures with the one you are fond of.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You are able to communicate well with associates and can advance in career matters today. Side-step a troublemaker and you will be successful.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

**Business**  
daily beat  
Jordan, Israel to sign agricultural agreement in few days

JORDAN AND ISRAEL are expected to sign an agricultural agreement in the coming months, according to a Jordanian official. The agreement, which would allow Jordanian farmers to export their produce to Israel, is seen as a major step towards normalizing relations between the two countries. The official said that the agreement would cover a wide range of agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, and grains. It would also allow Jordanian farmers to access the Israeli market, which is one of the largest in the region. The agreement is expected to be signed in the next few days.

AN EXTRAORDINARY assembly of the Jordanian Parliament is expected to take place in the coming days. The assembly is expected to discuss a range of important issues, including the economy, education, and health. It is also expected to discuss the proposed agricultural agreement with Israel. The assembly is expected to be a landmark event in Jordanian history, as it will be the first time that the parliament has met in a public session since the 1950s.

THE JORDANIAN Internal Revenue Service has announced that it has received a record number of tax returns for the year 1994. The returns, which were filed by a record number of taxpayers, show a significant increase in tax revenue for the Jordanian government. The revenue is expected to be used to fund a range of public services, including education, health, and infrastructure. The government is pleased with the results and expects to continue to see an increase in tax revenue in the coming years.

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# business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Jordan, Israel to sign agricultural agreement in few days

☆☆ JORDAN AND Israel will be signing an agricultural agreement in the coming few days after many months of intensive discussions. The draft agreement, which contains eight main articles, includes giving Jordan the priority to supply Israel with agricultural products whenever the Jewish state decides to import fresh produce. In such a case, Jordanian exports will be totally exempted from customs. Also to be exempted from customs on an annual basis will be 50,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables, 900 tonnes of olive oil, 30,000 live or slaughtered sheep, 1,000 tonnes of white cheese and 2,000 tonnes of jam.

Under the agreement, to be signed by the agriculture ministers of both countries, Jordan reserves the right to specify the farm products to be imported from Israel. The accord states that Israel would facilitate the delivery of Jordanian agricultural products to the Palestinian areas during the transition period. Joint agricultural projects could be set up, the agreement says (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ AN EXTRAORDINARY general assembly meeting of the Housing Bank approved raising its capital from JD 18 million to JD 25 million by floating seven million A shares for private subscription. The general assembly also approved capitalising JD 6 million from the capital reserves by awarding each shareholder registered on Aug. 5, 1995 half a share free for every one share of equity (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

☆☆ THE ARAB Company for Manufacturing White Cement posted record production and sales in 1994 with figures exceeding 96,000 tonnes and 98,000 tonnes respectively. High demand for white cement in the Jordanian and Syrian markets has pressed the company to cut back its exports last year more than it did in 1993. The company made JD 1.25 million in net profits last year due to increased sales, lower costs of production, higher price for cement and the drop in interest paid on loans. The white cement firm had a total of JD 19.6 million in net fixed assets at the end of 1994 (Al Dustour).

☆☆ THE JORDAN International Trading Centre recorded a JD 231,000 net profit during its 1994/1995 financial year compared to only JD 4,000 in the 1993/1994 financial year. The company boosted its sales to JD 2.1 million at the end of March 1995 from JD 1.2 million at the end of March 1994. Ordinary paper accounted for 70 per cent of total sales in the 1994/1995 year compared to 25 per cent in the previous year. Costs were down to JD 1.74 million from JD 1.08 million. The net profit posted this year enabled the company to cover about 50 per cent of accumulated losses (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ ROYAL JORDANIAN carried 710,082 passengers during the first seven months of this year, 2.8 per cent more than the number during the same period of last year. Cargo carried during the 1995 period amounted to 37,485 tonnes, 25 per cent over the seven months period of last year. Sources at the planning department said the occupancy rate of seats was 63.6 per cent (64.4 in 1994) and the loading capacity rate was 58.3 per cent (55.6 in 1994) (Al Ra'i).

## Diller to take control of television company

NEW YORK (R) — Barry Diller, who built the Fox Television network in the 1980s and has long sought a major media company, unveiled a deal Friday for a string of TV stations that could form the backbone for a new network.

Mr. Diller said he is buying a 20 per cent stake in Silver King Communications Inc., the nation's sixth largest TV station operator with a dozen UHF stations. He also received an option for another 70 per cent stake.

Silver King, based in St. Petersburg, Florida, currently broadcasts the Home Shopping network but analysts said that Mr. Diller will likely begin to build a new network from that base.

Mr. Diller has long wanted to control a media company, rather than work for another corporate giant, but his previous bids for Paramount Communications and CBS Inc. ended in failure.

His deal for Silver King is the latest in an explosive summer in the television industry. Walt Disney Co. agreed to buy Capital Cities/ABC Inc. for \$19 billion and Westinghouse Electric Corp. is buying CBS for \$5.4 billion.

Under the Silver King deal, Mr. Diller will buy 20 per cent of the company for \$22.625 a share, and receive an option for control of another 70 per cent of the company's common stock. It was unclear how much cash Mr. Diller was actually putting into the deal, and a spokesman could offer no details.

The option for the 70 per cent stake is controlled by Liberty Media Corp., part of John Malone's Telecommunications Inc. cable TV empire that ranks as the largest in the nation and which also controls the Home Shopping network.

Liberty Media had been unable to exercise the option because federal laws prohibit a cable TV company from owning broadcast properties. The television stations owned by Silver King, which also has 27 low-powered broadcast stations, were spun off from the Home Shopping network in 1992.

"Malone has had a bad time with Home Shopping, it's performing poorly, so he is bringing in Diller to shore it up," said one analyst who declined to be named.

Silver King's UHF stations reach 28 million homes. They serve eight of the 12 largest television markets in the United States, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Dallas, Houston and Cleveland.

Analysts said Mr. Diller will likely start a network on a small scale, offering one day of programming in addition to the Home Shopping schedule and then expanding. With the major television networks now allowed to produce their own programming in competition with the big Hollywood studios, competition will mount and lower the costs for a company seeking programmes like Silver King.

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd. started Fox Television in the mid-1980s in a similar way, buying its core stations from Metromedia in a multibillion-dollar deal and then expanding.

Mr. Diller started the Fox network for Mr. Murdoch, but then left and ended up with QVC Network Inc., a Home Shopping service. He then exited QVC and had been rumoured to be looking for a new company ever since his failed bids for Paramount and CBS.

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## Confusion, conflicting opinions depress prices, trading at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices dipped at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) Saturday on low volume in the face of uncertainties over Jordanian-Iraqi trade and economic ties, but blue chips largely maintained their strength, brokers said.

They said the shift in prices was between three and four per cent, mostly affecting industrial companies not listed in the official AFM index. As such, they said, the decline in prices in the official index was not really indicative of the trend in the market.

The official index, which is based on 60 major companies from among the nearly 120 listed in the market, closed at 156.69, down 0.28 per cent from the day's opening.

The separate sectoral indices showed that commercial banks and financial institutions slipped by 0.14 per cent to close at 182.05 points, services companies by 0.25

per cent to close at 126.46 points, and industrials by 0.36 per cent to close at 126.99 points. No trading was reported in the insurance sector on Saturday.

"It was a very bad day," said an AFM broker, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with standing market guidelines. "Trading volume was low at around JD 600,000 and people were not really willing to sell except those who really needed liquidity."

The daily AFM report showed that trading for the day was JD 597,164, with commercial banks accounting for JD 230,144, the services sector for JD 140,149 and industrials for 226,871. Volume of shares traded in the parallel market was JD 157,313.

According to the broker, "there is a lot of confusion and conflicting opinion among investors, some of them positive and others negative," over economic

and trade links with Iraq following the "recent political developments."

That was a reference to the Aug. 8 defection of two top-ranking Iraqi officials to Jordan and Wednesday's speech to the nation by His Majesty King Hussein in which the monarch criticised the Iraqi leadership.

"Investors at the AFM are as politicised as any other segment of the Jordanian society," said the broker.

"Some say the King's speech, in which he pledged to keep borders open with Iraq, was something that had to be said, while others are

apprehensive that Iraq might retaliate by scaling down economic and trade ties with Jordan," said the broker.

"Either way, many investors are opting to hold on to their stocks while looking for signs of Iraqi intentions as well as signals from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of their plans to consolidate relations with Jordan," added the broker.

The broker as well as several other AFM dealers and banking executives said they expected the "wait-and-see" approach to continue in the market for the rest of the week.

"Of course, if there are internal political developments within Iraq — which may have little to do with Jordan — then the market will react more strongly," said a portfolio executive at a commercial bank.

Saturday's developments in the market appeared to confirm the view of a senior government source, who said Friday that the Jordanian market would "absorb" the political developments.

There will be a negative impact, but it will not be of such a major scale as many would like to project," the source said.

## Buffett to buy rest of Geico for \$2.3b

OMAHA, Nebraska (R) — Billionaire Warren Buffett said Friday he would pay \$2.3 billion to buy the rest of Geico Corp., the insurance company he sank most of his savings into as a young investor nearly 45 years ago.

The purchase by Mr. Buffett, now one of America's most widely watched and shrewdest investors, will further extend the diverse empire that has already made him the world's second richest businessman.

Mr. Buffett, whose net worth of \$10.7 billion ranks him behind Microsoft Corp. Chairman William Gates, said the purchase reflects his longstanding confidence in Geico, which sells auto, home, life and health insurance.

"In 1951, when I was 20, I invested well over half of my net worth in Geico," Mr. Buffett said. "I felt very comfortable with that commitment and I feel equally comfortable with the major commitment that Berkshire Hathaway has made today."

Mr. Buffett said he did not expect any staff cuts at Geico, which will become a

subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., his Omaha, Nebraska-based holding company.

As is customary with the 64-year-old investor, the acquired company will retain its management.

The terms of the deal call for Berkshire Hathaway to offer \$70 a share for the 49 per cent of Geico it does not already own. Berkshire also owns big stakes in Coca-Cola Co., Capital Cities/ABC Inc., which is being acquired by Walt Disney Co.

Mr. Buffett, in an interview on CNBC-TV, said he decided to buy out the rest of the company now because the time seemed right and he liked the insurer's low-cost business strategy.

"It's a low-cost operator and it's been a low-cost operator since 1936," Mr. Buffett said, noting that Washington, D.C.-based Geico does not use sales agents.

He said he would have been willing to buy the rest of the company at other times, but said its current management favoured such a deal, providing the price was right.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 26/08/1995			
COMPANY NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PRV. CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	540	119415	221.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1950	6777	4.530
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	12400	14952	1.200
THE HOUSING BANK	2000	11300	5.650
JORDAN KUNAAT BANK	170	472	2.790
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1021	3616	3.760
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	196	829	4.150
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1423	5854	4.150
BEIT KHALI SAVING-INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1000	11008	3.500
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	30000	40555	1.050
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1020	9506	5.250
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4709	7373	1.580
BANKS SECTOR	67682	230144	INDEX NUMBER: 182.05
			CHANGE: -0.28
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	36067	57384	1.620
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1056	2263	2.190
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1000	1170	1.180
JORDAN PAPER PUBLICATION / ALBA	143	1409	9.950
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMPOSITE HOTELS	25100	57770	2.180
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3762	12068	3.210
ZAKKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	6050	8086	1.370
SERVICES SECTOR	73772	140149	INDEX NUMBER: 126.46
			CHANGE: -0.25
ATKINSON CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	300	257	1.190
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	7570	27772	3.690
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	450	1352	3.030
THE ARAB POTASS	350	1738	5.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1560	14821	9.520
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	15725	15725	3.300
THE JORDAN WOODSTYLLS	1000	7640	7.640
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4686	23354	5.020
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	750	4463	5.950
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	176	678	3.850
SPINNING & WEAVING	550	1082	2.050
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	200	452	2.310
DAR AL JAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3820	29409	7.750
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	950	5105	5.420
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	32800	15750	490
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	750	753	1.010
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1500	3110	2.140
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1600	5800	3.600
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	550	1194	2.170
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3600	11681	3.290
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	16000	32141	2.070
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	4727	8072	1.710
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	18550	34768	1.970
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	104139	226871	INDEX NUMBER: 126.99
			CHANGE: -0.56
GRAND TOTAL	245592	597164	INDEX NUMBER: 154.69
			CHANGE: -0.28
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	174497		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	157313		

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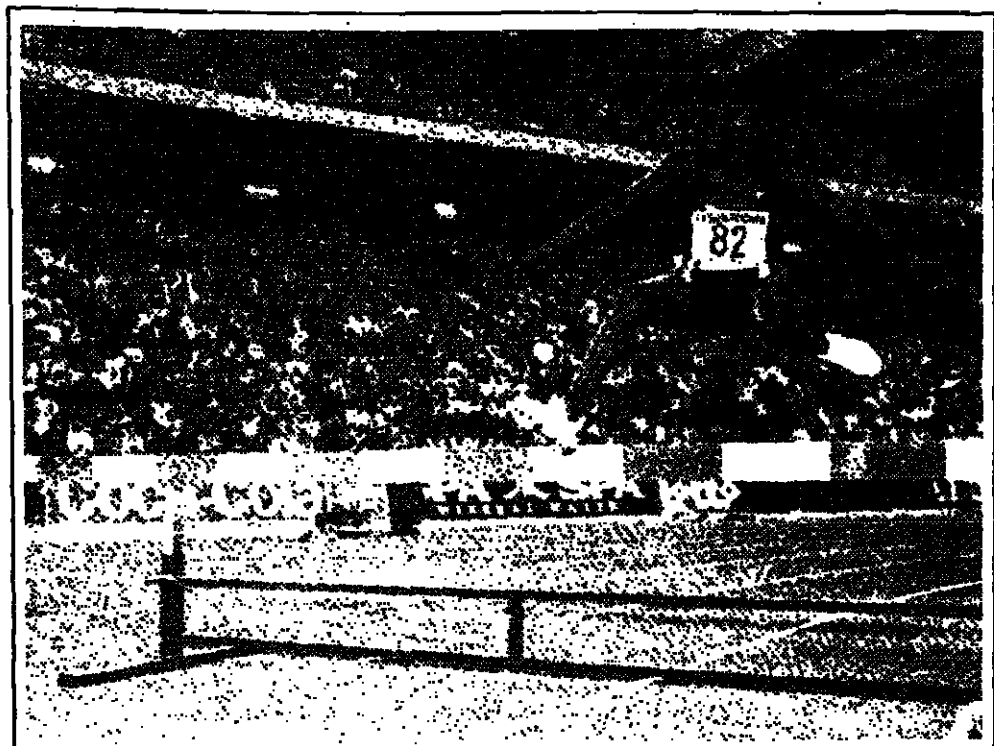
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Kenyan Moses Kiptanui jumps over a hurdle on his way to win the 3000 m steeplechase at the King Baudouin stadium (AFP photo)

## Mutola sets world mark in women's 1,000

BRUSSELS (AP) — Maria Mutola of Mozambique set a new world mark in the 1,000 metres Friday at the Van Damme Memorial, sweetening a bitter summer which saw her disqualified at the World Championships.

Mutola became the first woman to run the distance under 2 1/2 minutes, finishing her race in 2:29.34 minutes. U.S. runner Meredith Rainey led her to a quick split time at 600, leaving Mutola to cover the last lap on her own.

Cheered by 38,000 fans, she slashed 1.34 seconds off the 1990 mark of Germany's Christine Wachtel.

The happy scenes contrasted sharply with those from Göteborg early this month, when she was favoured to win the 800. But in the first heat, she was disqualified for running outside her lane and broke down in tears.

Moses Kiptanui also provided an excellent performance and ran the second sub-8 minute steeplechase in history, finishing only .35 seconds outside his world record.

In cold and windy conditions, Kiptanui ran most of the race on his own and finished in 7:59.53 minutes, just short of the record the Kenyan world champion set in Zurich last week.

Michael Johnson, with three world championship gold medals, Gwen Torrence, with two, and Linford Christie, with none, all remained on course for up to 20 kilos in gold after maintaining a perfect record in their event during the third of the Golden four meets.

Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan the 5,000 and Natalja Shikolenko of Belarus in the javelin

competition kept alive their chances for at least a shot of the \$230,000 in gold by dominating their events here.

After Oslo, Zurich and Brussels, the gold will split between all those with a four-out-of-four record in Berlin Sept. 1.

Germany's Raymond Hecht however lost his perfect record in the javelin, beaten by world champion Jan Zelezny.

Torrence ran the second-fastest 200 of the year to beat her rival Merlene Ottey in 21.87.

Christie, who was hampered by a hamstring injury during the World Championships final early this month, beat world champion Donovan Bailey for a second time in as many weeks Friday, and took the 100 metres in 10.09 seconds.

With fellow-American Butch Reynolds absent, Johnson missed his main rival but gained two strong challengers in Derek Mills and Jamaican Greg Haughton, who chased him up to 20 metres from the line. Johnson finished in a time of 44.64 seconds.

Johnson has hardly been involved in any rivalry this year, such as his domination. At the World Championships he won gold in the 200, 400 and 1,600 relay, making him the most successful athlete of the World Championships.

The 5,000 metre world champion O'Sullivan was chasing the world record early on in the race but soon had to settle for victory alone. The Irishwoman cruised home in 14:50.70 minutes, well ahead of Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia.

Shikolenko of Belarus dominated the field, as she has done most of the year, easily winning the javelin competition with a throw of 68.42 metres.

## World University Games Japan keeps narrow lead in medals race

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Americans' speed in the swimming pool wasn't quite enough to overtake Japan in the World University Games medals race Saturday as Japan added another gold to its judo collection.

The United States won three of the day's six swimming races, but Japan won two to go with its judo gold, leaving the Japanese ahead 10 to 8 in golds and 26 to 24 in total medals after three days of competition.

Russia's Evgenii Chabaev won the men's all-around gymnastics gold, giving his nation a total of four golds in a collection of 10 medals. South Korea had three golds and nine medals overall.

Brazil broke up the U.S.-Japan duel in swimming when Fernando Scherer and Gustavo Borges placed 1-2 in the men's 100-metre freestyle, giving their nation its first gold here.

Italy also won its first gold when Maria Valentina Vezzali took the women's foil fencing.

China, South Korea and Cuba each picked up one gold in judo.

In direct U.S.-Japan swimming battles Saturday, America's Kurt Jachimowski edged Japan's Hajime Ito by .28 seconds in the men's 100-metre backstroke, and Japan's Yoko Koikawa, a native of the host city, beat

American Elizabeth Jackson of Michigan by .26 in the women's 200-metre backstroke.

Emily Peters, trailing Japan's Sachiko Miyaji at the midway point, came from behind to lead a 1-2 U.S. finish in the women's 400-metre freestyle. Sarah Anderson was second and Miyaji faded to third.

The women's 4x100-metre freestyle relay quartet — Jessica Tong, Lisa Coole, Mary Edwards and Talar Bendel — captured the third American gold of the day, winning by more than five seconds in 3:46.68. Italy was second in 3:52.06 and Japan third in 3:52.99.

"Our country has such depth and it shows up on the relay," said Tong. "It's very competitive in the U.S. so it's a great honour to get on the team. I know 20 other girls who could have swum the relay."

In the men's 100-metre breaststroke, Japan's Akira Hayashi beat two Russians, winning in 1:02.71. Alexander Tkatchev, gold medalist here in the men's 200 breaststroke, was second in 1:03.38 with teammates Stanislav Lopoukhov third in 1:03.66.

Scherer won the 100 freestyle in 49.69 seconds. Borges took the silver in 50.20 and American Josh Davis of Texas was third in 50.36.

The Americans now have

won eight of the 18 swimming races held so far, and Japan has four victories.

Japan leads in its native sport of judo with five golds from 12 events. South Korea has three and Cuba two.

Japan's Kenzo Nakamura pinned down South Korea's Lee Eun-Hak in 2:46 for victory in the men's 71-kilogramme class, but Korean Jung Se-Hoon won a decision over Japan's Ryuta Yumiyu at 65 kilogrammes. Japan lost another final when Morales Gonzales of Cuba won a decision over Chiyori Tatenno in the women's 52-kilogramme class.

In fencing, Vezzali defeated Italian compatriot Annamaria Giacometti 15-9 and then Hungary's Reka Szabo, who lost her semifinal 15-13 to Mincza, shared the bronze.

In soccer, striker Daizo Ohtsu scored two goals and created two others as Japan trounced Slovakia 5-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals along with the defending champion Czech Republic, Iran, Ukraine, Australia, South Korea, Russia and South Africa in the last eight.

The United States won the 1993 medals race with 75 in all, including 30 gold, followed by Canada with 40 and Japan with 30. China stood second in golds, however, with 17.

### University Games-briefs

\* They may be 8,000 kilometres or more from home, but some of the athletes at the World University Games feel like they are the home team anyway.

After its 110-84 victory over Mexico Friday, the Canadian men's basketball team found crowds of Japanese children waiting to take photos and exchange high fives.

"It's like we're celebrities. It's just great," said forward Brendan Graves.

Guard Keith Vassel added: "It's really flattering because it's not just asking for an autograph. It's like their eyes light up."

At the U.S. men's opening volleyball game, against Lithuania, hundreds of children waved American flags, and sought autographs and handshakes after the Americans' straight-games victory.

"That was tremendous to see this kind of reaction from the crowd. It makes us feel like we are home again," said Tom Hoff of Long Beach State.

\* South Korea and the United States each had two players advance to the quarterfinals of the men's singles tennis tournament Saturday at the World University Games.

Top-seeded Lee Hyung-Taik of South Korea downed Zheng Yu of China 6-3, 6-4 and his compatriot Yoon Young-il, the No. seed, ousted Levente Baratosi of Hungary 6-3, 6-0.

David Caldwell, the No. 8 seed from North Carolina, defeated Arata Ito of Japan 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 and No. 11 Paul Goldstein of Stanford took more than two hours to beat New Zealand Andrew Turner 7-5, 6-3.

Top-seeded women Wang Shi-Ting of Taiwan and Rika Hiraki of Japan, regular on the women's professional tour, both advanced with straight set victories along with No. 6 seed Kelly Pace of Texas, who scrambled by Marta Alastrue of Spain 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7).

Jane Chi of UCLA was the first American to lose in singles action, going down 6-2, 6-4 to Kaoru Shibata of Japan.

\* Italy was the only team with a perfect record at the conclusion of the first round of water polo competition at the World University Games.

## English clubs facing Russian roulette

LONDON (AFP) — Three out of the six English clubs in European competition were drawn against Russian opposition on Friday, with Blackburn facing Spartak Moscow in the Champions League and both Manchester United and Liverpool heading behind the old Iron Curtain in the UEFA Cup.

Blackburn's first foray into the European Cup has little glamour with Polish side Legia Warsaw and Norwegian Rosenborg completing their group.

But it does offer the management duo of Ray Harford and Kenny Dalglish an excellent chance to succeed where Arsenal, Leeds and Manchester United failed in reaching the later stages since the ban on English clubs was lifted.

Blackburn reacted with cautious optimism to the draw with assistant manager Tony Parkes saying:

"It would appear that we are in a non-glamorous group but we are aware that there are no soft teams at this level."

"We are confident but now it's something of a journey into the unknown. We had a bad experience against partners Trelleborg last season but that won't affect our positive frame of mind."

"We are the English champions and the English game is still rated very highly. It's going to take a lot of home work on our part over the next few weeks and we are already making plans to watch our opponents in some depth," he added.

Rovers are expected to send a representative to cast

an eye over first opponents Spartak Moscow and that could well be the club's new director of football Kenny Dalglish.

In contrast, Rangers were handed an almighty Champions League challenge. The Scottish Champions will face the might of Juventus, Borussia Dortmund and Steaua Bucharest in the group stages.

That is an awesome test for Walter Smith's side — Paul Gascoigne et al — and Smith said: "It's a very daunting draw but a very interesting one for us."

"Both Borussia Dortmund and Juventus strengthened their sides to win their leagues but at least Juventus have sold Roberto Baggio," he joked.

FA Cup holders Everton have a relatively easy task in Iceland against Reykjavik, while Scottish cup holders Celtic face the unknown Georgians of Dinamo Baku.

But there were contrasting fortunes for England's four UEFA Cup representatives, all former European winners.

Nottingham Forest will re-run the first of Brian Clough's two European Cup triumphs against Swedish side Malmo, while Leeds face Jean Tigana's highly-rated French team Monaco.

But Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson said he was relishing the prospect of pitting his team against Monaco.

"What a wonderful spying trip. I am tempted to go on that one myself," he quipped.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### No new term for Martina

NEW YORK (AP) — With one of her main goals accomplished and the other possibly close to being done, Martina Navratilova will not seek another term as president of the WTA tour players association.

"Martina's long history with the Tour and the players was invaluable, and her efforts were most visible in helping to develop the plan for Monica Seles' special ranking consideration upon her return to the tour," Anne Person Worcester, chief executive officer of the WTA, said Thursday.

Navratilova's first goal as president was to get Seles back to competitive tennis. Seles' victory in last week's Canadian Open was her first tournament appearance, since being stabbed in Germany two years ago.

Navratilova has also tried to land a sponsor for women's tennis, which has been without one since Kraft dropped its affiliation. She says a sponsor might be in place by the end of the U.S. Open, which begins its two-week run Monday. Navratilova, 38, has said she wants to put her personal life ahead of tennis.

"We understand the demands on her time and respect her decision not to run again," Worcester said.

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## Sensational race in prospect in Belgian Grand Prix

SPA FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AFP) — A rainy final qualifying session for the Belgian Grand Prix set up a sensational race Sunday, with two Ferraris on the front row, Damon Hill eighth and world champion Michael Schumacher back in 16th position.

Gerhard Berger took pole ahead of Jean Alesi, with the McLaren Mercedes of Mika Hakkinen third and Schumacher's teammate Johnny Herbert fourth. Hill's teammate David Coulthard was fifth ahead of Mark Blundell in the second McLaren Mercedes.

It was the worst qualifying position of Schumacher's career, and followed a heavy accident in morning practice. His car was badly damaged with the German uninjured.

but "frustrated and annoyed."

Hill, who slid off the track in his final qualifying run, said "the car was good on that lap and now it is going to be a very interesting race."

"As far as the championship is concerned," said Hill, who trails the title leader Schumacher by 11 points, "this is not a total disaster, but it was a bit of a messy day really."

Schumacher said his lowly grid position was "obviously very disappointing, but I am sure it will be very entertaining to start from my position."

Spa Francorchamps is known as a circuit on which overtaking is relatively easy, and the powerful Renault engines in Hill's Williams and Schumacher's Benetton meant that they "should be

able to join the leaders quickly," said Berger.

"It will be a great race," he said.

Friday's first qualifying in the rain had seen slow times on the long, fast and demanding Spa Francorchamps track, with Berger again fastest, with Schumacher second from Alesi and Hill. The track was dry as Saturday's final hour started, but rain began falling after three minutes.

"When I saw the first drops falling," Berger said, "I went on the safe side to be sure I had a lap time. That 'safe' lap of 1 min. 54.392 at an average speed of 219.476 kph was good enough for pole."

"I hope I get round the first corner okay with these two guys," Berger said with a grin at Alesi and Hakkinen.

## NBA commissioner accuses agent of stirring controversy

NEW YORK (AP) — In an escalation of the heated rhetoric surrounding the NBA's labour mess, an angry David Stern on Friday blasted agent David Falk, saying he is "casting aspersions" on some players who have endorsed the proposed labour deal.

Five days before players are to vote on whether to dissolve their union or accept the labour agreement, the NBA commissioner accused Falk of disparaging his own clients and distorting components of the deal. The controversy over the new collective bargaining agreement has divided the players, pitting

such superstars as Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing against Karl Malone and John Stockton.

"He'll stop at nothing," Stern said of Falk, who represents Jordan and Ewing and is a leading proponent of dissolving the players' association and pursuing an anti-trust suit against the league.

"He is so intent on killing the deal at all costs, he is trashing his own clients and their negotiations," Stern added.

Falk said, in comments published in Friday's New York Times, that a number of prominent NBA players

who endorsed the deal after it was negotiated Aug. 8 would have been hurt financially if the proposed work rules had been in force when their current contracts were implemented.

Under the proposed agreement, a veteran with a four- or five-year contract can extend it any time after the third year, getting 20 per cent raises. Previous rules have permitted many players to renegotiate their contracts to obtain multi-million-dollar "balloon payments" near the end of a contract's term.

On Friday, Falk said he did not intend to disparage such

players as Stockton, one of his clients, or Malone, his Utah Jazz teammate, and Houston's Clyde Drexler, both of whom have benefited from renegotiated contracts with sizable raises. But he said both players were standing by a deal that would hurt other similarly situated players in the future.

Drexler will get \$9.7 million next season via a one-year extension signed midway through a five-year deal.

Falk took issue with what he termed Stern's personal attacks on him.

"I think David Stern is a very savvy, sophisticated guy

who I have great respect for," he said. "The only person who has been personalising this (dispute) is him."

Rather than criticise the group of 16 players who made the initial push for decertification and who are plaintiffs in the antitrust suit, Stern has blamed the interference of agents for his league's labour disruption.

Players are set to vote on Aug. 30 and Sept. 7 whether the union should continue to represent them in collective bargaining. Results of the secret ballot vote will be announced Sept. 12.

UMAG, Croatia (AP) — Top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria took only 64 minutes to crush Jordi Arrese of Spain 6-1, 6-3 and advance to the semifinals of the \$375,000 Croatia Open tennis tournament.

Muster, third on the ATP list, has already won three matches in the tournament — all against Spanish opponents — and will face another Spaniard in the semifinals: fifth-seeded Francisco Clavet. Clavet had less trouble than expected, defeating Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 6-2, 6-3. Third seed Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy beat sixth-seeded Javier Sanchez of Spain, 6-2, 6-4. Seventh-

seeded Carlos Costa of Spain seemed poised for a big surprise by beating second-seeded countryman Alberto Berasategui, 6-4, 6-4.

Sampdoria lose Zenga

GENOVA, Italy (R) — Sampdoria goalkeeper Walter Zenga injured his knee on the eve of the new Serie A soccer season and will not play again this year. Club doctor Gian Maria Vassallo said the 35-year-old former Italy goalkeeper would be unable to play for between four and six months after tearing cruciate ligaments in his left knee in a training session on Friday afternoon. "I went out to stop (Fausto) Salsano, but he sold me a dummy... I don't know what happened next. I tried to change direction but my left leg froze," Zenga said.

Kafelnikov, Rosset in semis

COMMACK, New York (AP) — Defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia advanced to the semifinals of the Hamlet Cup on Friday night, beating Shuzo Matsukawa of Japan 5-7, 6-2, 6-2. "He served very well in the first set and it was tough to get a rhythm on the return," said Kafelnikov, who will face No. 3 Marc Rosset of Switzerland. "In the second and third sets I returned much better."

Rosset, 50 lifetime against Kafelnikov, beat Cedric Pioline of France 7-5, 6-7 (3-7), 6-1. Rosset was up a service break in the second set, but Pioline broke back and won the tiebreaker to force the third set. Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands will play Renzo Furlan of Italy in the other semifinal. Siemerink beat Todd Woodbridge of Australia 6-4, 6-2 and Furlan defeated Malivi Washington 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

Fan killed at 1000 Lakes Rally

JYVAESKYLAE, Finland (AFP) — A 20-year-old woman spectator at the 1000 Lakes Rally in Jyvaeskylae, Finland was killed Saturday when she was hit by a car during the race. The accident happened only 200 metres (660 feet) after the start, where the woman was crossing the road with several other spectators. She was hit by the advance car, which clears the road for the competition cars, although the other spectators managed to get out of the way. The car, driven by Belgian Rally driver Bruno Thiry, rolled and landed upside-down in a ditch. Thiry was not injured. The 1000 Lakes Rally, which ends Sunday, will continue as scheduled, organisers said.

Italy refuse to play in Croatia

ROME (AFP) — Italian football federation president Antonio Matarrese on Friday said the national side would not play a European qualifying match in Croatia because of his personal desire to avoid a war zone. Matarrese, in an interview with Corriere Della Sera on the Oct. 8 match in Split, said: "The Italian team will neither play in Split nor Zagreb not because of fear (of bombardment), but because neither me, nor Sacchi (Arrigo Sacchi, Italy's coach) want to play where there is a war." However Matarrese is said to be in agreement to play the match in Vienna.

Croatian Alen Boksic, who plays for Italian side Lazio, said: "I would be very unhappy if the fixture was played at Vienna. It would not be fair — in fact, it would be absurd."

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Belgian Frederik Durborghe on his way to set the sixth best time in the men's 200 metres breaststroke at the European Swimming Championships (AP photo)

## European Swimming Championships

### Bleak day for former champions and medallists

VIENNA (R) — Past champions and medallists were scattered in disarray in the heats of the European Swimming Championships on Saturday.

Germany's former Olympic champion Daniela Hunger fell by the wayside at the first stage of her attempt to win the women's 200 metres individual medley for a record fourth consecutive time.

Frenchman Franck Esposito was denied a place in the 200 metres butterfly final by 0.04 seconds, having won the gold medal in 1991 and the silver in 1993.

Lithuanian Raimundas Maznolis, world and European bronze medallist, fell short of a place in the men's 50 metres freestyle final by the same fraction, touching in a below-par 22.95 seconds.

All three were ninth overall in their events, a frustrating one-place away from qualification for the afternoon finals.

Britain's Martin Harris, bronze medallist at the last European Championships in Sheffield in 1993, could manage only the 13th-fastest qualifying time in the men's 100 metres backstroke in the 50-metre stadium pool.

And at the end of the morning Slovenia's Igor Majoli, the 1993 bronze medallist, failed to make the 1,500 freestyle final.

But Russian world champions Denis Pankratov and Alexander Popov suffered no such indignities as they aimed for their second individual titles of the 11-day championships.

Pankratov, who shattered the nine-year-old 100 metres butterfly record on Wednesday, was the only swimmer to crack two minutes in the 200 butterfly heats.

The 21-year-old Russian won in 1:59.20 and looked in the form to put his 1:55.22 world record, set in Cannes, France, in June, under threat.

Poland's Konrad Gulk (2:00.09), Chris-Carol Bremer of Germany (2:00.18) and 100 butterfly silver medallist Denis Simanov of Ukraine (2:00.19) were the next-fastest qualifiers.

Double Olympic gold medallist Popov, who retained his 100 freestyle crown on Thursday and anchored the victorious Russian 4x100 freestyle relay on Friday, won his 50 metres freestyle heat in the third-fastest overall time of 22.79.

Britain's world short-course champion Mark Foster claimed the fastest qualifying time of 22.66 — 0.02 seconds faster than 1993 European silver medallist Christophe Kalfayan of France.

Germany's Timo Weber led qualifiers in the men's 100 metres backstroke in 56.01, ahead of Russian Vladimir Selkov.

Spanish world champion Martin Lopez-Zubero is ruled out with a back injury.

German former world champion Joerg Hoffmann made a confident start to his attempt to win the European 1,500 freestyle title for the fourth time, leading the qualifiers for Sunday's final.

Hungarian Olympic champion Krisztina Egervari, who declined to defend her 100 backstroke title, showed she was still the best at the event in Europe by swimming

the first leg of the medley relay heats more than a second faster than the time with which Denmark's Mette Jacobsen won the individual final.

Van Almsick's interview came up for

Franzi Van Almsick is in trouble again. This time the 17-year-old German swimming champion is accused of

calling Adolf Hitler her favourite historical figure. In a separate box along with a profile story, Swiss sports weekly Zuercher Sport lists Van Almsick's "lieblingsfigur" or favourite figures: Among them American actor Tommy Lee Jones, German tennis player Boris Becker and Hitler.

In the accompanying interview, the 10-time European

swimming champion acknowledges reading "Mein Kampf" (my struggle) and being curious about German history.

Van Almsick has been known for making blunt statements about life in former East Germany as well as talking about her sex life at 15 with a boyfriend 10 years her senior.

"I want to know how it all

happened, especially World War II," the 200-metre freestyle world champion and record holder was quoted in the publication. "When people talk about Hitler, they say how evil he was and how many people he killed... in fact he was quite smart."

In German-speaking countries of Europe, Van Almsick is well known and very popular, especially among youth.

"I want to know how it all

## Novotna, Maleeva and Rubin advance to semis

MAHWAH, New Jersey (AP) — Second-seeded Jana Novotna, deprived of her serve and volley game by strong winds, took control in the third set and advanced to the semifinals of the Pathmark Classic with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-0 victory over Iva Majoli on Friday.

"I didn't have as many opportunities to come in, the wind made a difference," said Novotna, ranked No. 4 in the world. "If it wasn't that windy I'd probably be at the net more. But I was good enough to finish off the point from the back."

In a night match at the Crossroads Corporate Centre, third-seeded Magdalena Maleeva beat Austria's Judith Wiesner 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Maleeva, ranked No. 7 in the world, will play Novotna on the semifinal Saturday.

Sixth-seeded Chanda Rubin will face Ai Sugiyama of Japan in the other semifinal. Rubin beat Marianne Werdel Wimpey 6-2, 6-1 on Friday. Sugiyama, who upset top-seeded Conchita Martinez earlier in the week, advanced to the semifinals Thursday by beating Nicole Pietrangeli of Australia.

Novotna defeated Majoli, ranked a career-high 12th, in the quarter-finals of the Canadian Open two weeks ago in straight sets. The Croatian gave Novotna more of a challenge this time with her blistering groundstrokes.

"I started off well in the first set and Iva had a very good run in the second set," Novotna said. "She didn't miss one ball, she took advantage of me not serving so well. But this is what tennis is all about. You can play well in the first set, your opponent can play even bet-

ter in the second. But the third decides it."

In the final set, Novotna broke Majoli in the first game and never looked back. "If she plays well, she's a dangerous player," Novotna said. "But she's not consistent enough to maintain that form through the whole match."

Majoli, 18, who turned pro in 1991, has beaten all the top 10 players except Steffi Graf and Novotna. Majoli hopes to have another crack at Novotna if both make it to the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

"I think I want too much when I play Jana," Majoli



Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva

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"I think I want too much when I play Jana," Majoli

said. "I want to hit some great shots. I think I should be more patient when I play Jana."

For her part, Novotna doesn't want to know who she's meeting at the open, where she lost in the semifinals to Graf last year. At a news conference, Novotna was asked how she would feel playing Monica Seles.

"I never look at the draw and I'd be pleased if you don't tell me who I have to play," Novotna said.

Seles is seeded second in the U.S. Open and she will play the fifth-seeded Novotna if both reached the quarter-

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Opening lead: Ten of A

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North's one-club response showed an ace or two kings, and the rest of the auction was natural.

Most declarers would win the opening lead in hand with the ace and then a club to the queen and ace. South's ace return would go to the queen and a club to the ten would lose to the jack. Now declarer would have to guess the club position or rely on a favorable heart situation for the contract.

Forquet saw the power of the eight of clubs. That would guarantee the contract if either the jack or queen of clubs was doubled, or if the suit divided 3-3.

After winning the first trick with the jack of spades, Forquet played off two high diamonds to make sure the suit would produce four tricks. Diamonds were then abandoned in favor of a club to the queen and ace. The ace return was won in hand, and the king of clubs fell the jack. Nine tricks were now guaranteed, and there was an easy overtrick to be had. Declarer cashed the queen of diamonds, overtook the ace with the seven to cash the king of spades, then led a club to the eight. Two easy!

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# Croatia vows to take Serbian stronghold

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Croatia vowed on Saturday to retake the last major rebel Serb region on its territory — either by negotiation or by force.

"We are faced with the task of liberating... eastern Slavonia. We will quite certainly do this in the coming months either by peaceful means or by a new (operation) storm," said Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

Eastern Slavonia, which borders on Serbia and Croatia, is a fertile and oil-rich region. Diplomats have said a Croatian move against the area could lead to a clash between the Balkan neighbours.

Mr. Tudjman spoke shortly before a U.N.-mediated ceasefire between Croat and rebel Serb forces in eastern Slavonia was to take effect on Saturday.

He then boarded a train to ride through the Knin-Krajina region where his troops crushed rebel Serbs and recaptured a large swathe of territory with "Operation Storm."

It was the Croatian army's biggest victory since the Serbs revolted in 1991 and declared their own state. That move came after Croatia broke away from former Yugoslavia.

About 90 British peacekeepers from Gorazde left Belgrade on Saturday on their way home. The last peacekeepers are due out next week, leaving 65,000 Muslims protected from surrounding Serbs only by the threat of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strikes.

Washington has sought to

reassure Bosnia that it stood by a promise to defend Muslim Gorazde in the eastern part of the country with NATO air strikes.

"The NATO commitment, the American commitment, the commitment... still applies," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke said on Friday.

Major powers meeting in London last month agreed that NATO would carry out air strikes if the Serbs, who have already overrun two other nearby enclaves, tried to seize Gorazde.

Mr. Holbrooke was due to fly to Europe on Sunday to press a new U.S. plan aimed at ending four years of bloodshed in former Yugoslavia but he played down its chances of success.

The U.S. initiative was knocked off track after three top envoys died in a road accident last Saturday on their way to the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo.

U.S. officials launched their initiative hoping to take advantage of a shift in the balance of power in the region after Croatia recaptured a fifth of its territory in the Krajina region with "Operation Storm."

The Washington plan to end the war in Bosnia and the crisis in former Yugoslavia as a whole calls for territorial swaps and would lift sanctions on Serbia if it recognised its neighbours.

Asked about its prospects, Mr. Holbrooke said: "I'm not going to predict success. The success chance is pretty small. In Bosnia, the worst-case scenario usually takes place."

The United Nations mean-

while reported that a skirmish broke out after Bosnia government soldiers attacked British peacekeepers in Gorazde Friday. The British killed two of the intruders without sustaining casualties themselves.

A U.N. spokesman, Alexander Wivanko, said the incident involving an estimated 30 soldiers was "an act of banditry." The United Nations lodged a protest to the Bosnian government in Sarajevo.

But a late night report by the London-based Press Association quoted the British as saying that only four or five intruders were involved, with perhaps only one of them armed and some in civilian clothes. A British Defence Ministry spokesman in London said they were probably "local hoods" out to steal gasoline.

The Bosnian army's press office in Gorazde had issued a statement late Friday saying that regular forces were not involved.

Gorazde has been named as territorial bargaining chip in published accounts of the U.S. peace initiative, even though the government has vowed not to abandon it.

The proposal reportedly would allow land swaps to help divide Bosnia between its Muslim-Croat majority and rebel Serbs. The government would get 51 per cent of Bosnia and the Serbs 49 per cent.

Rebel Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says the Serbs could accept no less than 64 per cent of the land, while the Bosnian government insists it will not give up Gorazde for other territory, as the plan reportedly requires.



SCIENCE WEEK: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday opens the third Jordanian Science Week at the Higher Council for Science and Technology (see page one) (Petra photo)

## Sudan says it freed all political detainees

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan on Saturday announced it had freed 32 political prisoners, including former prime minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, and said the country's jails were now empty of political detainees.

Human rights groups have said the Islamist government holds at least 200 political prisoners.

Dr. Mahdi, the leader of Sudan's biggest party, was given a hero's welcome by thousands of his supporters. He was released in a military coup in 1989 led by Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and has been detained several times since.

Abdul Basit Sabdrat, minister of culture and information, said Sudan's political prisoners were now empty after the release of 19 members of the Umma Party of Al Mahdi, eight members of the Sudan Communist Party and five members of the Baath Party.

Sudanese officials have put the number of political pris-

oners at between 30 and 70 but rights groups said it was not less than 200, most of whom are members of the Umma Party, the Communist Party of Sudan and the Baath Arab Party.

First Vice President Al Zubeir Mohammad Saleh said the government was currently working on reaching a national accord. He gave no details.

Sudan has announced amnesties and national accords in the past in a build to break out of growing international isolation.

A reporter saw Dr. Mahdi driven out of the prison in Khartoum on Saturday, three days after an announcement by Gen. Bashir that all political prisoners in Sudan will be freed.

He was sitting in front of a four-wheel-drive vehicle with three of his aides sitting in the back.

Wearing a long gown which is the traditional dress of northern Sudan, Dr.

(Continued on page 7)

## Extremists kill 9 women in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Extremists in eastern Algeria killed the wives of nine local patrolmen by slitting their throats and then decapitating some of them, the daily Le Matin reported Saturday.

It said the incident occurred overnight last Saturday at El Garem near the town of Mila. Six victims were decapitated and the bodies of the three others were completely charred.

In two of the cases, the attacks had been carried out by the victims' own brother and brother-in-law who then "dreadfully mutilated" the bodies, the paper added.

The local patrols were set up a few months ago by the interior ministry aimed at deterring armed attacks, but their members have often been targeted by extremists such as the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) who recently issued threats against the men's wives.

The GIA charges that "Muslim women cannot legitimately remain with their

husbands" who are considered the "enemies of God."

Some 371 women have been killed by Islamic fundamentalists since last year and hundreds of others kidnapped, tortured or raped, according to the Algerian security forces.

Meanwhile, another daily, Liberte, said Saturday that 300 people were arrested Wednesday during a sweep by Algerian police in the Algiers Casbah.

They had provided support to the armed groups for months, in terms of lodgings and information, the daily said, adding that 20 of the detained belonged directly to Islamic fundamentalist groups.

The paper noted there had been an upsurge of violence in the area over the last few days, which included the killing of an imam and an Algerian journalist.

Security forces claimed the journalist was killed by a

(Continued on page 7)

## Military option open with Sudan-Mubarak

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak said that all options — including military action — remained open in dealing with Sudan, which Cairo accuses of hosting terrorists seeking to overthrow the Egyptian government.

"All options are open. If we were forced to resort to the difficult alternative (military action) to protect the country, we will carry out any step," Mr. Mubarak told the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat in a lengthy interview published on Saturday.

Mr. Mubarak said he did not trust the Sudanese regime led by Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and backed by leader of the National Islamic Front (NIF), Hassan Al Tourabi. Egypt has accused Sudan

of being involved in the failed assassination attempt against Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa last June. Relations between the two neighbours have reached their lowest level in years and a clash in the disputed border desert area of Halaib took place following Egypt's claims.

Mr. Mubarak said that a recent government reshuffle in Sudan in which officials known for their close links to Dr. Tourabi were removed was a failed attempt to improve their image.

"They want to improve their image, but the black picture cannot be improved and a new picture has to come," Mr. Mubarak said.

In his interview, the Egyptian president repeated allegations that Khartoum

hosted the suspected terrorists who carried out the assassination attempt.

Mr. Mubarak said five militants arrested recently on their way from Sudan to Egypt confessed that they received military training with those who carried out the attack against him.

Egypt's largest militant organisation, Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, has claimed responsibility for the attack against Mr. Mubarak.

The Ethiopian authorities have said that all those who took part in the attack were Egyptians, but the planning took place in a third country which was not named.

Mr. Mubarak said that Ethiopia has asked Sudan to hand over suspected militants who allegedly took part in

the assassination attempt, but Khartoum has ignored the demand.

He added that Dr. Tourabi's NIF was running 17 camps where military training is offered to Muslim militants from all over the world. Khartoum denies the existence of such camps and insists they are farms.

"Now the Sudanese are trying to claim innocence, but their role in supporting terrorism is known for everyone, whether far or close," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We are telling them that extremists whom they are hosting play a dangerous role against us, and I am warning them. Egypt is a big country and the people are asking for action against them, but I am saying, 'no no'."

(Continued on page 7)

## Guerrillas attack Israelis and allies in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas attacked Israeli forces and their militia allies in occupied South Lebanon Saturday, wounded a militiaman and touching off artillery and mortar bombardments.

Fighters of Hizbollah, or Party of God, fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine-guns at three outposts manned by the Israeli and the South Lebanon Army (SLA), security sources reported.

There were no reports of casualties from the early morning attacks on the Zimraya, Kfar Noha and Tomat Niba on the northern edge of the Israeli-occupied border enclave.

Israeli and SLA artillery fired some 35 shells on suspected Hizbollah positions around Mashgara, 20 kilometres north of Marjayoun, the main town in the so-called "security zone."

Hizbollah attacked two other SLA outposts in the afternoon, touching off retaliatory shelling near the villages of Kafra and Yater, the sources said.

No casualties were reported in the attacks or the shelling.

But an SLA fighter was wounded in a Hizbollah bomb ambush inside the security zone the late afternoon, the sources reported. Israeli and SLA gunners responded with barrages of artillery fire on suspected Hizbollah hideouts in nearby villages.

Three Hizbollah guerrillas were killed by Israeli troops Friday as they tried to infiltrate into the enclave.

The slain fundamentalists were buried Saturday in Baalbek, a Shiite stronghold in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon.

About 3,000 Hizbollah supporters shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" marched through the streets behind the wooden coffins.

Sheikh Mohammad Yazbek, a senior Hizbollah official in the Bekaa, warned the Israelis: "We shall burn the ground under their feet and the sky over their heads."

So far this year, 126 people have been killed and 288 wounded in South Lebanon, the last active warfront in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Twelve people have been slain in the last week.

## Sanaa to deport Swedish officer and Iraqi family

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen will deport two Swedish police officers and the Iraqi family the police were escorting to this Arabian Peninsula state, a Yemeni security official said on Saturday.

The Swedish officers, a man and a woman, had brought the four Iraqis to Yemen after the family had been expelled from Sweden. The Iraqis, who had previously lived in Yemen, had chosen to come here rather than return to their homeland.

But Yemen's deputy chief of state security police, Mohammed Al Surami, told Reuters the Swedish officers and the four Iraqis — a married couple and their children — had entered Yemen illegally and would be deported.

A Swedish foreign ministry spokeswoman said the two officers had escorted the expelled Iraqi family on Aug. 1. She said that when they attempted to leave Yemen, authorities seized their passports and prevented them leaving, although they were not taken into custody, she said.

Ms. Surami said the Swedish and Iraqi, who came from Sweden via Frankfurt, were now staying at two hotels in the Yemeni capital Sanaa. But hotel officials

contacted by Reuters denied any knowledge of their presence.

Ms. Surami said: "It appeared the Iraqis got rid of their Iraqi passports somehow before coming to Yemen and they arrived without passports. The Swedish arrived without entry visas."

"This is against the law and they (the group) will be deported to where they had come from once investigations are completed."

He declined to say whether they would be deported to Frankfurt or to Sweden. He also declined to give the names of the Iraqis or the Swedes.

An official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP the Iraqi family of four and the Swedes were to leave for Stockholm via Bonn on a flight Saturday.

The decision to return them was taken "in agreement with the Swedish authorities, given that the members of the Iraqi family do not have travel documents and have political refugee status," the official said.

He expressed fears, however, that the Iraqis, who lived in Yemen before they went to Sweden, might refuse to travel on from Bonn to Stockholm.

## Somalis flood home from refugee camps in Kenya

LIBOI, Kenya (AFP) — As the U.N. refugee agency tries to bring order from the chaos provoked by Zaire's moves to expel the hordes of Rwandans on its territory, it can take heart from a success the other side of Africa.

The Somalis who fled civil war and famine in their country three or four years ago to subsist on humanitarian rations in camps in the middle of nowhere across the border in Kenya have decided it is safe to return home.

While no end is in sight to the anarchy in the Somalia capital of Mogadishu, the general fighting that was feared after the failure of the United Nations peacekeeping exercise has not broken out.

Reassuring news brought by truck drivers and cross-border smugglers prompted staff of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to launch a partially assisted voluntary repatriation programme.

Lists of those who wanted to go home were drawn up, but the UNHCR left most of the organisation to the refugees themselves.

"We are only following the movement, and now we are having to slow it down," said Jean-Claude de Rego, UNHCR field officer at Dadaab, 540 kilometres east of Nairobi.

"In my camp this week I had 1,400 candidates for 900 places."

As he spoke a fleet of 27 ancient trucks run by private operators waited at the small border post of Liboi to ship home the latest batch of some 2,380 people.

"Yesterday we gave them food for three months, and cooking and washing utensils," Mr. de Rego said. "This morning each one gets 30 dollars."

The heads of the various families, which in some cases were adolescents of no more than 14 years old, lined up, exchanging their ration cards for crisp new bank notes, placing a thumb print beside their names in guise of receipt.

Their faces were serious and none spoke or gave any sign of thanks. "That shocked me to begin with, but one gets used to it," the field officer said.

"I suppose it's a question of culture: They consider it their due."

In fact the money did not stay intact for long. The sharp-eyed truck drivers swooped on the refugees as soon as they emerged, demanding \$10 or \$15 to drive them to Doble, the nearest town in Somalia, and more for a longer journey.

Mohammad Dubet, 45, turned the small bundle of greenbacks over and over in his hands. "It's the first time in my life I have touched dollars," he smiled. "How much are they worth?"

Mr. Dubet said he was going back because he had learned that matters had resolved themselves at Dadaab, his home, and life there promised to be better than in the refugee camps.

"There are too many problems here," he said. "Robbery, and rape when the women go looking for wood. Even if life is hard, I prefer to face that sort of problem in my own country."

Some refugees have already gone before on reconnaissance at their own expense, sending back news



Somali refugees are crammed in a truck on their way home after spending two or three years in eastern Kenya (AFP photo)

and letters with the truck drivers.

"My family is in Buhale, I know they are waiting for us," said Abdullahi Abdul Sheikh, 39. "I think the war will not start up again, and we can plant for our food."

"They know exactly what they are going back to," Mr. de Rego said. "Every week the number of candidates for return increases, and there are no new arrivals, so we can conclude things are reasonable, despite alarming reports on the food situation in

certain areas."

As the diesel engines of the trucks coughed into life and the flowered print dresses of the women crammed into the rear sections flapped in the wind, some of the refugees waved and the children grinned.

But while they said they were happy to be going home, there was still anxiety.

A Kenyan police officer detailed to escort the convoy explained that the fare demanded by the truck-drivers included payment for

"protection" to the Somalia clan militia controlling the area.

For those who did not belong to the clan, or one of its allies, going home via Liboi was too risky, Mr. de Rego said. "For them we are looking at other ways, boat, or plane."

So far more than 28,000 people have returned to Somalia since last December, and the UNHCR, which has a budget of \$12.2 million for 1995, aims to get the figure to 45,000 by the end of this year.

## COLUMN

### Greek divers find Titanic's torpedoes sister

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek divers have found the wreck of the British liner the Britannic, sister-ship of the Titanic, after a two year search in the waters off southern mainland Greece, the Antenna television station reported. The Britannic, which was used as a hospital ship by British forces in World War I, sank with the death of 56 people after being torpedoed by an enemy submarine on Nov. 21, 1916. Its more famous sister, the 46,000 ton Titanic, went down on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg in the North Atlantic in April 1912, with the death of 1,490 people. Its remains were discovered and explored 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) down in 1985. The Olympic, the first of the trio of giant trans-Atlantic liners to be built for the White Star Line, was scrapped in 1935.

### Singapore's ghosts return to purgatory

SINGAPORE (AP) — The gates of hell closed Friday and Singaporeans bid farewell to the ghosts who lived with them for the last month. Nobody appeared spooked at the end of the Hungry Ghosts Festival — a colourful mix of ancestor worship, Chinese opera, pop concerts and show of wealth in this otherwise grimy city of colour-coordinated skyscrapers. Many Chinese believe that the spirits of the dead are let out from hell once a year to stay with living relatives during the seventh month of the lunar calendar. But those without living descendants or those abandoned by their kin wander around, hungry and angry. For one month, giant cylindrical joss sticks painted with red, green and yellow dragons have been burned in most neighbourhoods of Singapore, where 76 per cent of the population of 3.3 million is Chinese. Each year, feasts are held in public housing parks, where roaming ghosts are invited to choose from buffet spreads of chicken, pork, rice and fruit. Later on, the food is also consumed by living guests. In earlier days, Chinese operas known as "wayang" were organised for the dead ancestors at late-night entertainment shows. Now, pop concerts are more common. This year, Singapore's attention was caught by a blond, green-eyed performer from France who sang fluently in the Chinese Hokkien and Mandarin dialects at several shows. But the best feature of the festival embodying the spirit of wealth is the burning of mock currency, television sets, mobile phones, furniture and all other conceivable comforts of modern life.

### Poland approves anti-smoking law

WARSAW (R) — Poland's lower house of parliament overwhelmingly approved a tough anti-smoking law which bans cigarette sales to minors and curbs tobacco advertising. The bill, passed by 335-9 with 28 abstentions, prohibits selling tobacco products to people under 18 years of age and limits smoking in public places to restricted areas. It bans cigarette vending machines and allows local governments to set their own anti-smoking regulations. It also bans tobacco advertising from television, radio, publications for youth, schools, universities, cultural institutions and sporting events. Health analysts say the law is badly needed in Poland, where nearly one third of the population smokes and the annual tobacco consumption reaches 100 billion cigarettes. The bill still needs to clear the Senate and be signed by President Lech Walesa to become law, but neither is expected to oppose it.

### Alcoholic lollipops fail to sweeten critics

DUBLIN (AFP) — Children too young to drink legally can get an early taste of adult life with a cider-flavoured lollipop and a promise of gin and tonic for Christmas — an invention that has infuriated anti-alcohol groups. Lolly-maker Silver Pail, based in Cork, southern Ireland, said its lollipops only contain 0.1 per cent alcohol and has already started selling its cider-flavoured version.

Russia to give  
Kuwait arrests 3  
Iraqi infiltrators  
Sudan: Egypt is  
colonising Halaib  
Bals fight in  
small capital  
Grenade explodes  
at airport  
Iraq frees 21  
Sudanese  
Alcoholics  
fail to  
sweeten critics